

**City of Cottage Grove  
Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources Commission  
May 14, 2007**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Commission was duly held at Cottage Grove City Hall, 7516 – 80th Street South, Cottage Grove, Minnesota, on the 14th day of May, 2007.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Davy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Davy, Bill Haluzak, Keith Kleinsasser, Paul Poncin, Bill Schumal, Ryan Simmers, Ashley Thurber, Sheri Yaritz

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Zac Dockter, Ice Arena/Parks & Recreation Manager  
John M. Burbank, Senior Planner  
Myron Bailey, City Council Member

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the April 10, 2007 minutes.

**OPEN FORUM**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. 2006 YMCA Pool Operations Reports:**

Dockter included a memo responding to a question at the May meeting about pool operations. Dockter stated that he will provide another update at the end of the year.

**B. Archery Range Grant Application:**

Dockter reported that he briefed the Council at the April meeting on the archery application process. He stated that the city submitted the application asking for the maximum of \$10,000 but received \$5,000, which is the DNR's maximum grant for an archery range. Dockter assured the commission that this will not effect the archery range development and that the city will proceed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Michaels Point – Preliminary Plat:**

Burbank explained that the Planning Commission received an application for a preliminary plat for a subdivision in the East Ravine, which would be located north of 70th Street and west of Jamaica. He asked for recommendations related to park dedications, trailways, wetlands, and open space. He pointed out trailways and storm water ponds that will need to be incorporated into the plan. Davy asked how many lots would be going into this development. Burbank responded that the developer proposed 14 lots. Yaritz asked if there will be picnic areas. Burbank explained that the East Ravine plan calls for a community park that could include picnic benches, but he does not envision ball fields. Davy added that he does not see ballfields in this area either. Burbank explained that this plan calls for a neighborhood park and the watershed allows for a large open space. The majority of the focus is toward the trail corridors and linking the community to active space areas. Schumal asked about preserving historical areas in the East Ravine such as Military Road, a well that was used to water horses that traveled down that road, and old pine trees. Burbank responded that as a part of the East Ravine planning process Council's decision was to close Military Road from Jamaica to County Road 19 to vehicle traffic but maintain that portion as a railway corridor with plaques noting the history of the area. It was the consensus of the Commission that the park for this subdivision should be a passive park with open space.

### **B. Hamlet Park/Norris Marketplace Streetscape Design:**

Burbank presented the plans for the Hamlet Park Stormwater Project. Staff is currently working to fine tune the design, which will include future ballfields, a trail, and parking lots. Davy explained that there were concerns regarding the pond and parking, and this presentation gave him a good conceptual idea of how this will look. He pointed out that when the property on 95th Street is developed the city must pay close attention to the ridgeline. He also expressed concern that any building on this site would need landscaping to help screen the roof from neighboring properties. Burbank responded that additional plantings are planned for this property. He then pointed out that this is a good opportunity to connect the trail to the green corridor. Burbank explained that the city is requiring the developers of the Norris Square and Marketplace developments to design a complementary streetscape for their corner. Poncin asked about the size of the ball fields. Dockter replied that they would be full sized fields. Poncin suggested that the play structure be placed in the center of the loop of the ball field design. Yaritz asked if the fields would be used for adult or youth programs. Dockter responded mostly youth.

### **C. HKGI-2007 Metro Park Dedication Survey**

Burbank reported that the city has increased park dedication fees for new developments.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

None

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

Davy stated that Arbor Day at Hamlet Park was very successful. It gave the community the chance to see the changes to the park. Dockter explained that the city will be starting the trail renovation on Indian Boulevard after Strawberry Fest. Davy asked if the city is anticipating that the water would stay in the Pine Tree Valley Park pond. Dockter responded that the pond is a wet pond, which means it is designed to hold an average of four to seven feet of water. Burbank stated that the easement in Everwood subdivision would be expanded and would be owned by the city, noting that staff is working with the attorneys to finalize the easement documents.

## **PLANS AND AMMENDMENTS**

### **A. Cottage Grove Ravine Park Master Plan**

Burbank reported that at the last City Council meeting, Washington County and their consultants gave a presentation to the Council about the draft master plan. He stated that Washington County will be adopting this plan. There were six recommended suggestions in the memo to the City Council that will be forwarded to the County. Burbank informed the commission that this document is available online and at the library to review. Davy noted that the dog park would be a County dog park and not a City dog park.

## **REPORTS**

### **A. Parks Division**

Dockter commented that Public Works is working hard to get the parks ready for summer. Kingston Park has a new roof; the ball fields have been leveled out and are being consistently marked; reconstruction of the Hamlet tennis and basketball courts has begun, including converting four tennis courts to two tennis courts and two basketball courts; remove the old wood chips were removed and new wood chips installed along 80th Street; the horticulture interns are pruning and maintaining the 80th Street gardens; a memorial bench and two Japanese lilac trees (donated by Berryland) in memory of Julie Ristani was installed between Jeffery and Kingston Park; and the city will reseed the grass damaged around the outdoor ice arenas. Davy asked how the prairie grass restoration program is going. Dockter responded that there are still some weeds but as time goes on the prairie grasses will grow up and out compete the weeds. Dockter stated that this is the first year of the program and he is very pleased with the outcome so far. He then informed everyone of the Health and Fitness Expo at Oakwood Park.

## **COMMISSION COMMENTS**

None

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Bailey reported that the Council approved the redevelopment of the Colonial Office building property; approved the new design of the McHattie Farms development; recommended that Washington County should be responsible for funding and maintaining the proposed dog park that would be located in the Ravine Park; and entered into an agreement with the school district

to add a second sheet of ice to the ice arena. He then explained that the roundabout project is continuing to move forward. He also updated the Commission on Strawberry Fest.

### **STAFF COMMENTS**

Burbank commented that the July meeting would be canceled unless otherwise needed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.