

**City of Cottage Grove
Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources Commission
September 12, 2005**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources Commission was duly held at City Hall, 7516 – 80th Street South, Cottage Grove, Minnesota, on the 12th day of September, 2005.

Vice Chair Allan Dubois called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Allan Dubois, Paul Poncin, Ryan Simmers, Bill Haluzak

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Davy, Keith Kleinsasser

OTHERS PRESENT: Senior Planner John Burbank
Ice Arena/Park & Recreation Manager Zac Dockter
City Council Member Karla Bigham

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the August 8, 2005 minutes made by Haluzak. Seconded by Simmers.
Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM

None

OLD BUSINESS

A. Oakwood Park Master Plan – Update and Discussion

John Burbank updated the Commission on the master plan presented by Close Architecture Firm and discussed the topics of the plan at a neighborhood park meeting. There was a lengthy discussion held by the Commission in regards to the future of the disc golf area. The Commission and Council Member Bigham all felt that there should be a concrete plan in place for Oakwood Park, whether it is a new park or keeping the existing park, before the disc golf course is destroyed or moved.

B. DNR Prairie Restoration Grant

Dockter updated the Commission that the grant application was sent to Council and approved by Council in September. Staff hopes work will begin in the fall.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Hidden Valley Fishing Pond – Phase 1 – Update

Dockter reviewed the plan with the DNR to stock the north pond with hopes of the south pond silting over and filling up to create two large ponds with sunfish and crappies being stocked on an annual basis. The requirement of the DNR is to simply keep a moat access to the pond so people can fish offshore. The intent is to hold an inaugural event to highlight the stocking of the pond and to also monitor use of the pond.

B. Highland Park Grading and Trail Way Project

John Burbank reviewed the landscape architecture plan for the Highland ponding area and expanding the trail way system in Highlands Park. He mentioned that the price came back more expensive than originally planned, so the project has been put on the CIP and plans are to do the work in 2006.

C. Local Dog Park Efforts

John Burbank said that a group called “Woof Pack” has come up with a renewed effort to get a dog park in the Cottage Grove area. The preferred site this time is the Cottage Grove Ravine Park, which is county property.

D. 2005 Park Facility Project Update

Dockter reviewed the projects that have been happening in the parks over the last spring, summer, and fall. He pointed out what has been done and what should be done by the end of the year. Some of these items included: Peter Thompson Park, Hardwood Park, West Draw Park, Cottage Grove Trail Way Corridor, Woodridge Park.

E. River Access Discussion

Burbank discussed some of the items that have been reviewed by staff in regards to making river access more readily available in Cottage Grove. The current plan right now is to work with the county to use the county park land that was purchased several years ago and get several partners involved; the mining companies out there, the county, the DNR, the City itself and others to jump on board and all work to get some better river access area available for the residents of Cottage Grove.

REPORTS

A. Golf Division

No comments.

B. Ice Arena Division

No comments.

C. Parks Division

No comments.

D. Recreation Programming Division

No comments.

E. Planning Commission

No comments.

F. Historic Preservation

No comments.

G. Council Agendas

No comments.

H. Monday News

No comments.

I. CGAA

No comments.

PARK PLANNING/MANAGEMENT EDUCATION MATERIALS

This includes items of interest that are going on in other communities and items to help Commissioners become better members.

Burbank submitted a brochure from Tree Trust in regards to planting the right tree for the right area.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Allan Dubois asked some questions regarding the Hamlet Park pond. He asked if the water from the east side of 80th will be going directly into the Hamlet Pond and Burbank verified that it would be filling up that pond. However, the pond would be dredged deeper to allow for more volume.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Karla Bigham reviewed some of the budget decisions relating to Parks, Ice Arena, and Recreation. Some of the highlighted items were: concrete bleacher pads under the bleachers at the parks, wind screen fencing at Woodridge Park, Recreation will be staffing the warming house at Peter Thompson Park, and several maintenance items at the Ice Arena.

STAFF COMMENTS

John Burbank reviewed the development timeline of properties north of 65th Street and east of Hadley Avenue and discussed that there will be some park development plans coming to the Commission in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Paul Poncin to adjourn, seconded by Bill Haluzak. Motion to adjourn carried at 8:26 p.m.