

**City of Inver Grove Heights Minutes of the Proceedings
Of The Park and Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, February 12, 2014**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Eiden called the February 12, 2014 Park and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Al Eiden; Commissioners: Joe Boehmer, Mark Freer, Willie Krech, Jim Huffman, and Mary Hapka

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson

Absent: Vice Chair Dennis Schueller; Commissioners Stan Johnson and Deb Tix
Recording Clerk Sheri Yourczek

Chair Eiden wanted to make one addition to tonight's Agenda. Under "Administrative Presentations" he would like to add an item "D". He'd like a brief update on where the Council is at with regards to the Golf Course.

3. PRESENTATIONS:

None

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. You can find information regarding the City of Inver Grove Heights by visiting our Web Site at:

www.invergroveheights.org

B. Next Meeting: March 12, 2014. Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2014

Motion made by Commissioner Krech, seconded by Commissioner Hapka, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

8. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Consider Recommendation for 2014-15 VMCC Ice Rates

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson stated each year we are in charge of doing a market rate study of ten pre-selected ice arenas. The ice arena can charge based on the lease agreement with the School District. We can charge 5% over the average, we can charge average, or we can charge less than average.

The average market rate is \$202.00. 5% above that would be \$212.00. We are recommending that the ice rate for the 2014/2015 season be \$205.00, which represents a \$5.00 increase over the current rate of \$200.00. The current rate has been in effect for two hockey seasons.

Motion by Commissioner Krech to accept the increase as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Boehmer.

Chair Eiden asked if there have been any issues on renting the facility because of the rates?

Director Carlson responded there doesn't appear to be. Teams want to skate between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m. There is ice available earlier, and later than those times, as well as on Saturday and Sunday's during what he would call decent times. It is also rented out to Eagan, and Rosemount, some adult groups, figure skating groups, and we have our own programs such as public skating, open hockey, Learn to Skate, etc. Our ice rate is still within the market. We are not the highest or the lowest. He doesn't think our rates have affected the sale of ice during popular ice teams. No matter what our rate would be, selling ice is tough.

Commissioner Boehmer asked if they still put the turf in one rink? What is the cost to rent?

Director Carlson responded they do. It goes in the west rink. It will be up and operating on March 6th. The turf is typically used in March through mid-October. Ice is in both rinks from November 1st through the end of February. The prices to rent the turf are \$70.00 per hour.

Commissioner Krech asked if they get much utilization of that?

Director Carlson responded they get \$25,000 a year from the turf rental. It is most popular in March and April. We use it for our own programs when it slows down a bit in the summer time. Then use will pick up again in the fall. Some of the high school athletic teams use it in the spring. The golf teams, the lacrosse teams, etc., bring in different people to the building if it wasn't for the turf.

Chair Eiden wanted the public to know that we have a model that has been established to make sure we are trying to be in the middle of the market place in most issues. Rest assured you can get any information by calling the City. Know that people take a lot of time to make sure our rates are fair.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

B. Consider Recommendation for Awarding a Contract and Funding of the Dakota County Trailhead Project located in Swing Bridge Park

Director Carlson stated this evening the Commission is being asked to make a recommendation to the City Council to complete the last phase of the Swing Bridge project. This is a project that we have been working on in conjunction with Dakota County. Over the last eight to twelve years, the City and Dakota County have been planning and working on the Rock Island Swing Bridge, the Mississippi River Regional Trail, and Heritage Village Park. These items benefit both City and County residents. We have received significant amounts of grant dollars to make these projects happen. Over the last year or so we have entered into a number of agreements with the County to help us move this project along. In that, we are providing land to the County for the Trailhead Facility on 65th Street. We have an agreement with the County on how the future maintenance and

the operations of these improvements will happen in the future so there is no misunderstanding of who is responsible for what. The County is taking the lead on this portion of the project. They are responsible for contract administration, construction oversight, etc. We are a financial partner, but we do have the ability to inspect or be on sight if we wanted or needed to.

A brief presentation was given with the following information:

Swing Bridge Park Improvements:

- *In 2010/11 Rock Island Swing Bridge Project: 670 foot pier. \$2.3 million dollars.
- *In 2012 the City upgraded 66th Street from Concord to the entrance to River Heights Marina. That cost was \$1.2 million dollars. Some of that cost included future improvements to the park.
- *In 2014 Trailhead Project at a cost of approximately \$1.4 million dollars.

Trailhead Partners:

- *Dakota County
- *National Park Service
- *City of Inver Grove Heights

Project Goals:

- *Provide off-street parking for people using the park and trail
- *Provide year-round public toilets
- *Provide information center and historical interpretation of the site, the railroad, and the river
- *Provide for picnic facilities

Restroom Facility:

- *Men's restroom
- *Women's restroom
- *Custodial closet
- *Water fountain
- *Way-finding information
- *Historical information

This structure will be the responsibility of Dakota County to operate and to own, to maintain it, and to take care of anything that may happen to it.

Picnic Shelter near Mississippi River:

- *Seats between 50-60 people
- *Electrical
- *Free standing water source
- *Built in service counter
- *Security lighting
- *Rentable by the City of Inver Grove Heights so any revenue that is generated is collected by the City of Inver Grove Heights.

Site Layout: Map shown

Funding Sources:

- *Dakota County is responsible for a little over one million dollars
 - *City of Inver Grove Heights is responsible for \$439,000
- Total: Approximately \$1,500,000

State Bonding Grant SG 2010-049

- *\$1,000,000
- *Only used on Rock Island Swing Bridge or Heritage Village Park
- *Must be spent by December 2015 or grant money is lost
- *Must be used on Capital Investment, cannot be used to purchase land

Project Highlights

- *Park is open between 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.
- *The restrooms are open seven days a week and operated by Dakota County Parks
- *Picnic Shelter is rented through the City of Inver Grove Heights
- *JPA outlines operations and future maintenance requirements

Commissioner Huffman asked if there will be grills?

Director Carlson responded there are plans to have a grill down by the picnic shelter.

Commissioner Hapka asked about maintenance and upkeep. Will it be 70% the County and 30% the City of Inver Grove Heights?

Director Carlson responded when talking about maintenance, we talk about the replacement of the structure, the parking lot, etc. The parking lot is split 70/30. 70% is the County, 30% is the City. When the day comes to replace the restroom facility, 100% of that cost is by the County. When the day comes to replace the roof of the picnic shelter, or the picnic shelter itself, 100% of that cost is the Cities responsibility.

Commissioner Huffman commented that he has worked on this project a long time. He wants to get the artifacts out there.

Motion by Commissioner Krech to proceed with the project as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Huffman.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

Commissioner Krech asked about the trail down by his shop on Inver Grove Trail. The amount of snow we have had this year has been quite a bit. With regards to the bridge and the fencing, where you cross the bridge over the railroad tracks, the area is plowed, but then the City comes though and plows and then you can't plow toward the fence anymore. We need to get a snow blower out there.

Director Carlson responded he will have a conversation with the County.

C. Discuss State Grant (SG-2010-049) Rock Island Swing Bridge – Heritage Village Park

Director Carlson stated, as mentioned in the previous item, we have received a Grant from the State of Minnesota. Assuming approval of the process we just spoke of by the City Council, there will be approximately \$396,000 remaining from that grant. Those grant funds have to be spent on the Rock Island Swing Bridge Park and/or Heritage Village Park. They have to be spent on park improvements, not on land purchases, or maintenance. The ability of the City to utilize those funds expires in December 2015. We have all of this year and next year to determine if we have a project(s) to utilize that money for, what those projects are, construction, etc. If we have not let a contractor have the work completed by December of 2015, we will lose that money. It is a reimbursement grant. We have to make the improvements and get reimbursed by the State. In looking at that and wanting to make sure the Commission and the City Council is aware of where that grant is, we need to make educated decisions on what to use those grant dollars for. City Staff has come up with four ideas. Those include improvements such as a parking lot, either moving the town hall or the school house there, playground equipment, a splash pad, a large building, a parking lot along Doffing, a performance stage, an outdoor amphitheatre, picnic shelter, some internal trails, etc. These are improvements the Master Plan contemplates. We can do some of them, all of them, or we can change it around, etc.

One problem with this plan is that we don't own all the land yet. There are four properties the City doesn't control. One is the location of Amiri Auto, one is Riverview Auto, one property is owned by the Kramer family, and one property is owned by the Hay family. A lot of the improvements we would like to make in the future are not really possible right now because we don't own the land. Given all of that, Staff tried to come up with some ideas on how to utilize the money from the Grant. We want to present those to you this evening. You can go with those ideas, or make up your own, but we want you to prioritize those ideas so we can bring this information back to the City Council and they can tell us where to get further information from.

The four ideas are as follows:

1. If 64th Street would actually be constructed through the park, in this location there are a set of overhead power lines as well as other lines from those poles. It's somewhat of an eyesore. These grant dollars could possibly be used to bury these lines underground. Cost would be about \$100,000 to \$200,000 dollars.
2. The parking lot on 65th Street, on the Master Plan, shows property we own, and property owned by Amiri Auto. Perhaps we could find a way to construct a parking lot on land that we currently own. People are parking along 65th Street to get on to the Mississippi River Regional Trail now. We believe if we are going to build a parking lot along 65th Street, at the same time, we should probably upgrade the roadway of 65th Street. That is not a Grant eligible project. An approximate cost to upgrade that road is about \$600,000.
3. We could enhance the historic interpretation that we are doing at the bridge itself, and at the Trailhead Facility at 66th Street. That could cost about \$25,000 to \$50,000.
4. The old town hall and/or the schoolhouse. Those are proposed to be moved to this site, remodeled and brought up to code. The cost to do that is somewhere between \$300,000 to \$400,000 per building. We couldn't do both of them, but we may be able to do one of them.

These are four ideas to contemplate. The Commission may have ideas of their own that they may want to consider.

Commissioner Hapka asked if there were lines going north and south as well on that property.

Director Carlson responded there are north and south power lines on the property but those lines cannot be put underground, the others could.

Commissioner Huffman asked about the historical marker. Are you are talking about putting one down by the Gun Club?

Director Carlson stated as part of the project there is some historical interpretation going on, but with this we can enhance the historical interpretation at that site, but utilizing some of these dollars if we prioritize high enough. Locations could be the Swing Bridge, on top of the trail by the overlook, etc. It can be multiple locations.

Commissioner Huffman would like to get an estimate of what it would cost to move the old school house or the old town hall without remodeling them.

Director Carlson stated we did get a cost awhile ago to move them. Then it was about \$50,000. Right now he is estimating the cost to be about \$80,000 to move each building.

Commissioner Krech agreed on the cost. You also have to spend money on putting a foundation down underneath them.

Commissioner Huffman wanted a breakdown before it goes to Council.

Chair Eiden asked what the status was with moving forward with acquiring those four last properties?

Director Carlson stated the City Council has always taken the position of willing seller, willing buyer. We have spoken to Amiri Auto, but he has a tenant that is also leasing from him and at this time the tenant is not interested in leaving. That may not happen. We are speaking with Riverview Auto. We have not had any serious conversations with the Kramer's or the Hay groups.

Chair Eiden asked that question because we are getting to the point where the foundation items have already been done. Now we can start developing it into a park site. We want to start putting things on there. We are challenged with working around private properties. If the City is fortunate enough, and Senator Metzen is

successful, then you have more funding. It would be nice to put a more reasonable timeline, be it, two years, five years, or 20 years, to finish that park. We should concentrate on more focused talks with those properties.

Director Carlson said given the Legislature will be starting their session soon, and they typically end in May, we need to be patient, and depending on the outcome, then make our next move.

Director Carlson said our request to the Legislature is that we utilize the funds to purchase property and to make infrastructure improvements on street, water, sewer, and park improvements. That is different than the requirements of the million dollars. This time around we are asking that the language allows us to use it for a variety of different purposes. If that's what the language says, and it's approved, we have more latitude to use those funds on things other than just park improvements.

Chair Eiden asked if anyone had any other ideas other than the four presented?

Commissioner Krech would like to see those buildings moved. It doesn't say where they might go, and if it doesn't interfere with the properties that we might get yet, we can spend money and get that much done. We can also do the street, that way we can get those two things done. Once those buildings are in there, maybe we can get people in there to donate their time to fix them.

Commissioner Huffman stated those buildings are a part of our history. That's why he would like to see them moved to this area.

Commissioner Freer asked about the parking lot on 65th. Right now it's half in and half out. If the land is not available, would you re-configure it so it can be on our land?

Director Carlson responded it might not be as big as what the plan shows. Maybe we can get half of it built, but do it in such a way that maybe in the future we can add onto it and get the full parking lot built. If you tie in the street, and Staff would recommend doing the street at the same time, but that's not Grant eligible and that's a whole another story with regards to priorities. Honestly, 65th Street isn't that high on the Cities priority list.

Commissioner Freer says he parks down there a lot. It's muddy and full of holes. Some people drive up into the weeds a bit to park. People will just find places to park. To him, it should be one of the priorities to get some parking down there so the park can begin to be used. It will be more popular as people get down there to the Bridge and the Park. He felt it was a good piece of the project, and as some people like to start at the beginning, he feels it's a good part of the project to consider. As far as the schoolhouse and the town hall, he felt they can stay where they are until we have the money to fix them up the way they need to be fixed up. We are not even sure we can fix them up and maintain them. He agrees they would be a great addition down here, but now doesn't seem to be the time to spend the money just to move them to another location when they are not hurting anything where they are now.

Commissioner Krech stated if we call it Heritage Park, and we have saved the first city hall and the school house, we want to put them there. He didn't feel we really needed parking. You need it along the street, along 65th. The problem is, the City has a lot of streets with pretty rough black top, so they don't want to come down here and do that first.

Commissioner Freer doesn't think the street repair needs to be a part of the parking lot project. He hates to see us spend a lot of money on buildings when we don't know if we can maintain and fix them up the way we want to.

Commissioner Krech commented we are maintaining them where they are now. They have new roofs, new doors, etc.

Chair Eiden recommends that we stay with the four projects that are outlined here. If he were to prioritize these, the first thing he would do would be to relocate the two buildings. The second thing would be the parking lot. The third would be historic interpretation, and the fourth would be the utilities. While the utility lines are useful, people don't worry about those. If you put those buildings down there, you give people the essence of Heritage Park. With those buildings down there it would be nice, in terms of making it a Community, to attempt to get Community involvement. If there's no place to park, you can't get the people down there easily. He likes the historic interpretation too. If we have the structures there, and we can work on them, we can all start using the park.

Commissioner Krech suggested in regards to remodeling them, you can go to the County Vo-Tech's or the school to do those things. These things are solid structurally. We can put interpretation items inside of these buildings so they have something to look at. He agreed that we still needed parking to go see them.

Commissioner Freer commented that we probably also needed a trail system to get to those.

Commissioner Krech suggested starting with a wood trail, and eventually upgrading them. We got by with a lot less in this town for years.

Chair Eiden commented that any way we can find people to actually participate, it's a great thing. We can make a statement by putting those buildings down there to show we are developing that park.

Commissioner Huffman stated when he started this park; there were a lot of agencies fighting against us, but we got it done. There are a lot of artifacts that go down there. History is his forte.

Commissioner Boehmer stated there is a parking lot down by the Rock Island Swing Bridge already. He can't see putting a partial parking lot there and then coming back and doing it again once you get that private property.

Commissioner Freer mentioned that not everyone uses the Swing Bridge area to go to the park. It's a ways away. If he wants to just walk the dog, people tend to park on 65th, and there they park in the mud. He's not the only one there. There are cars there all the time during the day when he goes.

Commissioner Krech felt you can just put rock there, which is temporary.

Commissioner Hapka commented that if people are there and utilizing it, then that is an issue to be addressed.

Commissioner Huffman stated when there was a need for a parking lot at River Front Park, we started with rock.

Chair Eiden stated we were given four recommendations here. We need to decide what we want to do. Do we want to add or subtract to this list?

Commissioner Hapka asked if we were to just move the buildings. Do we have enough money for the foundation and the temporary parking lot too?

Commissioner Krech felt we needed to move the buildings and get foundations under them. Put some temporary parking down there, and then some trails eventually if there is any money left.

Commissioner Freer agreed the buildings itself will draw some interest. Even a grass type trail can be established.

Motion by Commissioner Huffman to do the following four items in this order: 1. The buildings. 2. The parking lot. 3. Interpretation, and 4. The power lines. Seconded by Commissioner Freer.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

Director Carlson wanted to verify what they were saying. Your motion is to relocate both buildings to Heritage Village Park and put a solid foundation under both of them, but don't go any further than that. To build a temporary parking lot out of gravel. Do historic interpretation at the Rock Island Swing Bridge. Bury the utilities. These items are to be done in this order until the money runs out and we stop.

Chair Eiden suggested discussing this item again in May, depending on what the legislature does for us.

Commissioner Huffman asked when this will go before the Council?

Director Carlson responded probably not until after the legislature convenes, so possibly in May.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS:

A. Confirm the Commission's Support for the Trail Gap Study

Director Carlson stated back in 2011 we went through a process to review the Cities trail and sidewalk system. We went through and identified gaps in the trail system. The map and the report is helping us identify and prioritize gaps in our trail system so people can safely get throughout the Community to things that are popular such as parks, schools, commercial areas, etc.

Commissioner Krech asked if Maintenance Superintendent Mark Borgwardt, and yourself, decided what would be priority gaps? And the order of importance?

Director Carlson responded the whole report involved a process. The Commission reviewed it, the City Council adopted it. It was a group effort. Tomorrow evening the Public Works Department is holding an open house to talk about a reconstruction project they have on College Trail. As a part of that proposed reconstruction, it is proposed to build a sidewalk/trail combination. It would be located halfway between Broderick and Cahill on the north side there would be a trail and you would have to cross College Trail. From that point on the south side, would be a concrete sidewalk. That is what is being proposed. Residents are being asked to attend the open house and look at the project and give their input. We want the Commission to confirm that the trail gap study is still an important priority for the Commission and that trying to close some of these gaps is an important role that the Commission sees for the City. It makes sense to do these things with a project especially when reconstruction occurs within the City as that is the most cost effective time to do things.

Commissioner Hapka stated she would like to see Inver Grove Trail on there. She doesn't know that we would have a trail or a sidewalk, but maybe something just like on Courthouse Boulevard, where they have a shoulder. Maybe we can put that into the plans, that it not be an actual trail, but a wide shoulder.

Commissioner Krech felt we have already agreed to do something like that on the plans but we need to update the road first. When they do the road upgrade, then they invite the neighbors in to discuss. Another road they are having problems getting a trail on is Barnes Avenue.

Commissioner Freer asked what priority this was in the plan?

Director Carlson responded on the map it is letter "P". They are not necessarily prioritized in alphabetical order, but the ones highlighted in yellow were priority, and this was coded yellow. The time to consider closing these gaps is during a road reconstruction project.

Chair Eiden supports filling the gaps in the trails. The Consultants are telling us you have a list of partners, grants, etc. At this point he hasn't heard us talk about all of those resources that we can use to help with these things. We can't even maintain the trails we have right now. We need to find more ways to do these instead of just doing them out of the general fund. The more participation you have by other folks, the better it is going to turn out.

Commissioner Krech commented that if the County is paying for part of this, then this is the time to put the trail in. We realize that someday Inver Grove Trail will get done. A lot of people want that. Even on Barnes Trail, if the County comes in, and that's a County road, if they would have done an update, a lot of people have come in and they really opposed that. When it comes up again, and too many people show up, then those things don't get done. They opposed that even though they didn't have to pay for it.

Commissioner Hapka felt we have to look at different outlets for projects. That's why she likes Courthouse Blvd. It's just an added shoulder. It seems more cost effective that way instead of doing a separate trail.

Motion by Commissioner Huffman to approve the Trail Gap Study as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Freer.

Commissioner Krech felt the reason this trail is going there is due to the College and the new housing. You also have the older people in the retirement home as well. They could also use the trail to walk there. It could serve a double purpose.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

B. Department Happenings

Commissioner Freer asked if there were any estimates on the Splash Pool items?

Director Carlson stated that information is being gathered right now. The cost to operate it, different options as to what it might be in the future, etc. We will bring that before the Commission in the future.

Commissioner Krech asked if the splash pad and pool have been remodeled once already?

Director Carlson responded the lily pads have been replaced several times, but nothing has been done to the slides or the play equipment.

C. Future of Our Parks Report – Park & Recreation System Plan

Chair Eiden stated they have not been doing much with the group lately. Director Carlson has been sending out information to the Friends of the Park so they know what is going on. He felt they should probably schedule another meeting and get the group back together. One of the reasons we have tabled a lot of things was due to the Council's concern with funding sources, etc. We gave them an educational meeting on the public utility franchise tax. Where does that stand now?

Director Carlson responded that right now the City Staff is going through a several month educational process along with the City Council in regards to franchise fees. They were updated on challenges in the parks and roadway system. At the end of the educational sessions on franchise fees, they can decide what direct they want Staff to go. In addition to that, Staff has been meeting to look at the Northwest area to be more specific on our park planning and trail needs. That would be a good opportunity to sit down with the Future of our Parks group to share our thoughts and ideas. He doesn't really see a need for that group to meet in the immediate term, but hopefully in two or three months we will have more information to take to a meeting.

Chair Eiden would like to see us move ahead. There is so much that needs to be done besides the funding. If we are visioning out 10 to 15 years, we need information on the northwest. We haven't talked about resources needed to do stuff. He felt we are being narrow sighted to do a vision. He is concerned that we have lost the majority of the Friends of the Park. Maybe we can get them back. With people's schedules and things, if you don't keep them actively interested and doing something, they are not going to want to come back.

Commissioner Krech felt that if you have trouble coming up with sourcing, how can you proceed with this?

Chair Eiden felt it should be approached. We need to develop what we think the vision is. The vision is based on what makes this Community a good Community to live in and what will we need to go forward, especially in terms of activity, and age groups. Once that plan and the vision are done, then you step back and state that this happen because we don't have the resources to do that, primarily being money. You do the plan and vision first, and then say we can or cannot do these things because of where we are at with money. We have been at this for over a year now. People get discouraged over time and disinterested. We haven't spent a lot of time discussing what alternatives there might be.

Commissioner Hapka felt it was like Heritage Park and the Master Plan. Is it going to become a reality? Maybe it will, or maybe it won't. We can't build amenities without figuring out how to maintain and upkeep them. One of the issues of the groups was whether we should have fewer, but nicer parks.

Commissioner Krech felt the problem now is with the existing parks, not the things we are going to add later. We need to figure out how we are going to maintain the things we have now.

Commissioner Hapka agreed with Director Carlson's suggestion to wait a couple of months to get more information.

Chair Eiden felt there was a lot more work to be done by the Committee before then.

D. Update on the Golf Course

Chair Eiden stated last month we had a discussion about out-sourcing the maintenance and management of the golf course. One of the conclusions was that we would recommend to the City Council to do that, and that Commission members were willing to participate. He did go with one of the Council members to a meeting regarding a St. Paul course where they selected an outsource provider for their golf course. He is asking what the Council decided on?

Director Carlson responded we are going to be bringing back information to the City Council for their work study session on Monday, March 3rd. We will provide them with information on RFP's and information that the City of St. Paul has. We will wait for the Council to give us more direction.

Commissioner Krech felt they wanted two people from the Parks Commission.

Chair Eiden said the reason he asked was because it is close to the golf season again. When he attended the meeting in St. Paul, he noticed it is not easy to make a change like this in two or three months. If people are antsy, you have to understand that the management of this course will stay the way it has been for the past twenty years, at least for this year. He doesn't think a change can be made that quickly.

Commissioner Krech didn't agree. He felt it was easy to do.

Commissioner Eiden stated the City of St. Paul chose a food vendor to manage those courses and they got a golf partner as a secondary. They spent three years looking into doing an RFP and the vendors. If we are going to do something, we need a golf vendor. Our food is so minimal compared to others. His concern was with the

Council waiting until March to give us direction. He felt their request was different than what St. Paul was doing. He is all in favor of going forward for a lot of reasons; but we can't keep running at that detriment for a number of more years.

Commissioner Krech felt that anything can happen right now. We have taken over jobs that have been half done, and continued to go productively forward.

Commissioner Hapka felt you have to be careful with who you get coming in and taking over.

Commissioner Freer spoke to someone over the weekend from a Forest Lake course that's privately run and doesn't cost the City a dime. They may provide some maintenance, but that is reimbursed from the company. He felt it could be done.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Krech was concerned with all the snow we have had this year. The new trails are not working out so well with the streets being plowed. Maybe we need a new system for a snow blower.

Commissioner Freer asked about 70th Street. Is that a County Road?

Director Carlson responded yes.

Commissioner Freer commented that where the Highway 52 Trail goes across it, there's no signage. If you go down toward 65th Street there are a few signs stating there is a trail. People go down 70th Street pretty fast. Maybe we can discuss signage or striping it.

Director Carlson will have our Engineering Staff look into it.

Commissioner Freer asked about goose management. Last year he went down to Simley Island in the spring. He didn't feel you could go down there and use that park. Every step you took was horrible due to goose droppings. Has the City ever done anything to manage it? Those droppings carry a lot of disease. He worries about the kids. This should be a responsibility we have.

Commissioner Krech stated they did. They fenced out the island, planted higher plants, etc. Geese don't like to come in through tall grass. Part of it is that people feed them too. He hates to have them killed. It's really difficult to do. You can catch them and take the nested ones out of there, and that helped, but they think the area belongs to them.

Director Carlson stated we do have a fall goose hunt, but not in the parks system.

Commissioner Freer felt the island wasn't usable with the geese there. It's a beautiful little park until you get down there. They are beautiful birds, but they should not be taking over the parks. The adult geese can be transported and rid of. There are more humane ways to get them out of here, but understands it costs money.

Chair Eiden asked if we can gather information about the problem. See if anyone is looking into doing anything about it? We don't have a Forester anymore do we?

Director Carlson responded we have a Forester/Parks Maintenance person on staff that is educated in Forestry and deals with our forestry issues.

Commissioner Hapka had no comment.

Commissioner Boehmer had no comment.

Commissioner Huffman was happy that the project down by the river is finally going to be completed this year.

Chair Eiden commented if there is anything you want from us, you have to let us know please. We would appreciate knowing. Keep your eyes open and your nose to the grindstone and your ears to the ground and see what is going on around here in Inver Grove.

11. ADJOURN

Motion by Commissioner Huffman seconded by Commissioner Freer, to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0 Motion carried.