

**Inver Grove Heights
Park and Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, May 14, 2014
8150 Barbara Avenue
7:00pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PRESENTATIONS – Items that don't require action.
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; June 11, 2014 Regular Meeting 7:00pm
5. CONSENT AGENDA – All items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and have been made available to the Commission at least two days prior to the meeting; the times will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Commission member or citizen so request, in which event the item will be removed from this Agenda and considered in normal sequence.
 - A. Approval of Agenda
 - B. Approval of Minutes of April 9, 2014
6. PUBLIC COMMENT – Public comment provides an opportunity for the public to address the Commission on items that are not on the Agenda. Please raise your hand to be recognized. Please state your name and address for the record. This section is for the express purpose of addressing concerns of City services and operations. It shall not be used to clarify individual's views for political purposes. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person.
7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Items that are brought back to the Commission for action from a previous meeting.
8. REGULAR AGENDA - Items requiring action that are new to the Commission.
 - A. Park Dedication Requirements for Meridian Land Company (Fox Glen) – Case NO 14-12PUD
9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS - Items that need to be discussed without any actions.
 - A. Update on Goose Management
 - B. Discuss the City and Park & Recreation Department Mission Statement(s)
 - C. Department Happenings
 - D. Future of Our Parks Report – Park & Recreation System Plan
10. COMMISSION COMMENTS – A chance for Commissioners to ask questions or make comments.
11. ADJOURN

Since we do not have time to discuss every point presented, it may seem that decisions are preconceived. However, background information is provided to the Commission on each agenda item in advance from Staff; decisions are based on this information and past experiences. In addition, some items may have been discussed preliminarily at Work Sessions. If you are aware of information that has not been discussed, please raise your hand to be recognized. Comments that are pertinent are appreciated.

This document is available upon a 3 business day request in alternate formats such as Braille, large print, audio table, etc. Please contact Eric Carlson at 651.450.2587 or TDD/TTY 651.450.2501

**City of Inver Grove Heights Minutes of the Proceedings
Of The Park and Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, April 9, 2014**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Eiden called the April 9, 2014 Park and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Al Eiden; Vice Chair Dennis Schueller; Commissioners: Willie Krech, Jim Huffman, Mary Hapka, Deb Tix, Mark Freer, and Joe Boehmer

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson

Absent: Commissioner Stan Johnson

Recording Clerk Sheri Yourczek

Chair Eiden asked how Commissioner Johnson was doing.

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson responded he has spoken to him several times. He is recovering and hopes to make it back in the near future. He gives his best to everyone and wishes he could be here.

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: May 14, 2014. Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Chair Eiden stated the brochure has come out with things coming up in the spring and summer.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2014

Director Carlson wanted to add one item to the Agenda. It would be Item 8D: Inver Wood Golf Course Management RFP Process.

Motion by Chair Eiden, seconded by Commissioner Freer, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Aye: 8

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

8. **REGULAR AGENDA:**

A. Consider Park Dedication Requirements for Biagini Properties – Case No. 14-11PUD

Director Carlson stated the Biagini Properties are developing 13.3 acres of land located at 8225 Argenta Trail. The adopted Park and Recreation Comp Plan does not identify the need for parkland in the area so we are recommending cash dedication at the newly appointed rate of \$7,000 per acre, or \$93,170. We also recommend, if it is not already in existence, that a 20 foot easement along Argenta Trail be established for a possible future trail that is not to be constructed today. Tree preservation is not a Park and Recreation issue, but we do suggest that the Planning Commission address tree mitigation or preservation that has to happen on the site. We also request the development doesn't add Ash trees to the site.

Motion by Commissioner Krech, seconded by Commissioner Boehmer, to accept Cash Dedication for the site.

Aye: 8

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

B Memorandum of Understanding with Friends of the Mississippi River for the Rock Island Swing Bridge

Director Carlson stated Parks Superintendent Mark Borgwardt is here to discuss this, as well as the next issue on the agenda with you.

Parks Superintendent Mark Borgwardt stated the item before you is the Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of the Mississippi River. This is a process to restore the area down by the Rock Island Swing Bridge. We had the Friends of the Mississippi River come down in 2012. We entered into a contract with them to do a natural resource inventory of the property and come up with a plan to restore these areas. We started the process in 2013 and did a lot of work in the area. We are going into a year by year basis with a one-year memorandum of understanding. Part of that memorandum didn't include the steep slopes along the existing trails so we would like to address those this year. For this year's memorandum of understanding we feel we need \$15,300 to restore a lot of the steep slope along the trail from River Road to the overlook deck, and then on the other side along the north side of the berm from the Y on up to the scenic overlook. The plan includes burning those areas before construction starts. They would also do chipping of buckthorn and box elder, as well as other woody plants that are non-desirable. This includes seed for the banks, and chemical treatment of stumps, and piling the material and burning it at a later date. The project total comes to \$15,300. The City Forrester suggested we have additional money in there to remove existing trees near the overlook. We would also like to take some additional vegetation along the trail that goes out to the bridge. We are asking for a figure not to exceed \$20,000 to come out of the Park Dedication Fund.

Motion by Commissioner Krech, seconded by Commissioner Huffman, to approve the amount not to exceed \$20,000.

Commissioner Boehmer asked if this was the same group that cleaned out the trees on the north side between the marina and the Rock Island Swing Bridge? He felt it looks really good and has really opened it up.

Chair Eiden asked about the term of this agreement. It states it is good for two years from the date it is finalized. Is that from 2012?

Superintendent Borgwardt responded it was made up in 2013 so it is good until 2014 with these changes and then it is ended. It should be completed this year.

Aye: 8

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

C. Approve 2014 Tree Replacement Plan

Parks Superintendent Mark Borgwardt stated this item is the annual tree replacement from the Tree Preservation Mitigation Fund. This is a fund that Planning administers that developers have to make a deposit into if they take out more trees than allowed under the ordinances. We then use that money to remove dead or dying trees, and plant new trees. Because of a lack of development lately based on the economy, we don't have much in there right now. We currently have about \$18,000. The policy states we can't take more than 50% or \$9,000, so we are recommending \$4,000 from the fund now to remove dead or dying, diseased, and hazard trees.

Motion by Commissioner Krech, seconded by Commissioner Tix, to accept the \$4,000 request.

Commissioner Freer asked if it included replacements?

Superintendent Borgwardt responded when there isn't much money in there, we can't replace trees.

Director Carlson stated while there is not any plans to spend any money on tree replacement out of the Tree Preservation Fund this year, it is likely that we will be spending money out of our EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) Fund that the City adopted. That plan has us removing Ash trees and replacing them with a variety of trees. We will be purchasing some trees and planting some trees using those resources.

Commissioner Krech asked how bad the Ash Borer problem is?

Superintendent Borgwardt thought he would be bringing that information forward at the next meeting. He stated that Director Carlson, the Tree Forrester, and himself, put together an EAB Plan in 2010. Right now we are talking about taking out approximately 75 to 100 trees per year and then replacing them. Brian Svoboda, our Forrester, has administered that program over the last three to four years in our public parks and Golf Course.

Commissioner Krech asked if there were any sprays for that issue?

Superintendent Borgwardt responded there are injection methods that have been suggested. We will be discussing that next week. Brian Svoboda, the Tree Forrester, has been attending conferences about this and has other information on how to deal with this cost effectively.

Commissioner Huffman asked when you take these trees out, what fund does it come out of? Does it come out of the Park and Recreation Fund?

Superintendent Borgwardt responded it is a combination of the Tree Replacement Fund, the EAB Fund, the CIP, and out of our Parks Operating Budget. He would like to identify a forestry budget in our Parks Operating Budget so we can have some dedicated funds just for Forrestry.

Commissioner Huffman asked if the money we received from developers can be used for this?

Director Carlson stated the money we receive from developers via Park Dedication has to go into the Park Development and Acquisition Fund, Fund 402. That money can only be used to make capital improvements for the first time in our parks system. It is mainly used for new trails, purchase of land for park, tennis courts,

lights, etc. We would not be able to use those funds to remove trees. Through the development of the park, we may be able to plant trees, but we cannot use that money to remove them.

Aye: 8

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

D. Inver Wood Golf Course Management RFP Process

Director Carlson stated as you are aware, the City Council is interested in having an RFP developed for the potential outsourcing of the management at the Inver Wood Golf Course. We brought some information to the City Council for their consideration. The direction they provided us with was they would like to see the Park Commission, along with City Staff, form a small work group to identify and investigate some of the issues on how the golf course may be outsourced in the future. Then bring back a recommendation to the Park Commission and then the City Council about the RFP and whether or not that will be released. The Council desires the options come late summer, that way something can be in place in time for the 2015 Golf Season. Whether the decision process will be about releasing an RFP, or signing a contract with an outside firm depends on how the golf course does this season. He has put together an outline with a number of issues that need to be addressed. He suggests that Vice Chair Schueller, and Commissioner's Hapka and Tix, be on this Committee as well as the Finance Director, the Golf Course Operations Superintendent, himself, and the City Administrator. They will bring information forward, identify issues, narrow down what or what not an RFP may or may not include, and then develop something to bring back here to the Commission and then recommend to the City Council. It is anticipated the group meet six to eight times between May and August. That would allow for plenty of time to get an RFP together, and then if we release it, things can be put in place for the 2015 golf season.

Chair Eiden asked if any of the three Commissioners recommended would not want to be a part of this group.

Commissioner Hapka commented she would like to serve on this group, but if there was someone else that wanted to take her place they were more than welcome to.

Commissioner Huffman said he would like to be an alternate if needed.

Commissioner Freer mentioned he wouldn't mind serving on it. He uses the course.

Chair Eiden suggested that having three was a better number. They thought the Council would be actively involved in this process, but they have chosen not to. This is our project now. From his point of view, if others would like to sit in and listen, they are more than welcome.

Director Carlson felt they shouldn't have more than four. As for sitting in, he wasn't sure of the technicalities of that but will find out.

Commissioner Hapka commented if Commissioner Freer wanted to take her spot he is more than welcome to.

Chair Eiden suggested they exchange Commissioner Hapka for Commissioner Freer.

Chair Eiden asked if there were any particular comments to direct to the committee. He asks that the committee make sure when they start out for the potential research topics, to know what the mission of the golf course is. Part of the confusion is that we have mixed messages as to the mission of this golf course. He felt it would be very difficult to put all the other things in place and then ask someone to work with you and manage something when they don't know what your mission is. Our original mission was to put as many players on the golf course as possible and to make money. He isn't sure in this day and age that that should be the mission. If you are

going to put the work in, he would hate to see your recommendations be stopped by the Council when they see them because they didn't know what was going on.

Commissioner Krech felt you needed to make aware what you have available to the potential customers. The City owns the equipment. Do they use the City equipment, or pay rent for it? Do they provide their own? We need to send that information out to them.

Chair Eiden pointed out that the simple objective of the course was to put as many players as possible out there and make money. What he is hearing in recent years, as far as the objectives of our course goes, is to put various kinds of customers out, and still have it be profitable or at least break even. There are some issues with managing and maintaining it. Do we want to make capital changes, equipment changes, etc? As he reads it, the Council doesn't want to spend any money out there. They want to maintain ownership of the property. He looked over the St. Paul's proposal and they are not that similar, so they are not that comparable. Our objective is to maintain the course, and then maybe add food, etc.

Commissioner Huffman agreed that this needs to be researched thoroughly.

Vice Chair Schueller stated he has done a lot of research on other courses and what they have regarding programs. His emphasis at Inver Wood has been about getting program changes. He hasn't done a lot of work on knowing what's going on with outsourcing golf courses. It is a newer process. We have a good situation in St. Paul that we can look at as an example. It is going to take some time to research this and interview people on how things are going. He is willing to spend the time and research it. His initial feeling is that this change of management at Inver Wood would be the step that we needed. The new management would take some initiative and make some changes. He thinks the course will be successful with the existing staff. We do need to be prepared in case that doesn't happen though. He has confidence in those there now, that they have the capabilities to do what we need to have done to make the course successful.

In regards to this report written up by Director Carlson and Staff, we need to figure out if this is what we want. It states that this group will not engage in day to day operations of the golf course. It also states that we won't be involved in the programs aspect of the golf course either. He expects people who play the golf course be active in making suggestions about the golf course too. You need volunteers to do the work that the Staff cannot. In the past we have had boards and focus groups at the course. To say you are not able to be involved in programs isn't a good idea.

Commissioner Tix felt that is speaking to the fact that we are not involved in the day to day operations. We need to look at this overall. Whatever takes over the course, they get to decide the programming to best utilize our mission. She agrees with Chair Eiden that we need to know our mission.

Commissioner Huffman commented if we do an RFP they may not hire anyone back.

Commissioner Krech felt they had to have two options for the Council. We get an RFP and get two or three items back to see what they have to offer. Maybe those with RFP's would have good ideas for us to use and we manage those with our current Staff.

Commissioner Freer commented one of the things we need to determine is what is successful? Is that break even, lose a little money, make money, etc? Every Community looks at that a little bit differently. He looked at Forest Lake and they just break even. They have a vendor who takes care of everything. Their Council is happy with them and they keep them. Others want to make money. We need to determine what success is.

Commissioner Tix commented that depending on what our mission is, that will determine what success looks like for this golf course. The goal of this workgroup is to look into options and determine which of them is best.

Commissioner Hapka stated we need to have concrete goals.

Vice Chair Schueller suggested they report to the Council after each meeting so they can update them on the progress. He felt this is quite a diverse work group here. There are going to be a lot of different opinions. He isn't sure we can easily accomplish an idea with such a diverse group. He will accept the responsibility the group brings.

Commissioner Tix agreed it is diverse, but it will help us to do the things we need to do. She didn't think it was too much.

Vice Chair Schueller commented the course has situations that vary from year to year, such as the weather. Maybe we need to go year to year to see how our course did compared to other courses. This new management at Inver Wood is going to need a little time, so you can't expect miracles right away. He has met with them and stated he would like to see steps in the right direction. If they continue with the management philosophy they have had in the past, he doesn't see any other option other than to have an RFP.

Commissioner Krech felt they needed a "we can do this attitude" rather than "we can't do it". You have to be more public friendly. Having that here hasn't been good to the City. We have been funding a losing operation and it doesn't make sense. When they come in here to give bids, they are going to look at how it profits them. Courses should make money. The bulk of the Inver Grove Community uses other golf courses for tournaments, fundraisers, etc. We need to find out why. Maybe it's the attitude that has been there that has cost us.

Commissioner Tix stated that is why we have the work group. The staff that is there now will have this year to show the progress. We can have the RFP and those options and the Council has the information they have from this whole year to make a change next year, if they feel it is necessary.

Commissioner Huffman felt the front desk should have a suggestion box from golfers letting them know what they would like to see. They play it, they would know.

Commissioner Tix felt they needed that information from the ones that don't golf here.

Chair Eiden formally appointed the committee as being Vice Chair Schueller, Commissioner Freer, and Commissioner Tix. He would like Director Carlson, along with the committee, to set up the first committee meeting date. He asked that they please give the rest of the Commission the dates in which you are meeting.

Vice Chair Schueller asked that the people that are on the work group have a copy of the golf course assessment. He felt most should have it anyway, but those newer here may not.

Director Carlson offered to get copies to those that need them.

Chair Eiden thanked those for accepting the challenge. They will be waiting to hear what kind of progress they make.

Vice Chair Schueller mentioned that he met with the new management staff at Inver Wood and Director Carlson. He gave them information that he has received from golfers in this Community, High School Golf Coaches, members of this Commission, and people on the Council. As a member of the golf course task force back when we did the assessment, he studied the assessment over and over again and developed some ideas. He has not heard back yet, but they said they will get back to him. He wanted everyone to know that is separate from what we are talking about doing here. That was his effort to deal with the new management staff to see if some changes can take place. If there is anyone on this Commission who wants to take a part in that as well, he has the information that he gave to them, and can share with you if you want to be involved.

Chair Eiden was curious to see how that is going. He would like to know what progress he is making.

Director Carlson stated he is working on a response to what Vice Chair Schueller is talking about. He hopes to get a response to him tomorrow. The City Council and Parks Staff will also be included in that.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS:

A. Department Happenings

Commissioner Tix asked if the benches are being replaced on a yearly basis at Rich Valley?

Director Carlson responded they are just doing maintenance on the existing benches at Rich Valley.

Commissioner Tix felt the wording made it seem like they were replacing the wood each year. She suggested using aluminum benches instead then? She can't remember the last time she's played at a park that had wooden benches. Maybe they should be replacing them with aluminum.

Commissioner Krech commented that he picked up some aluminum bleachers that are pretty decent. He had his manufacturing guy fix them up as they had dents. Maybe someone could come and look at them.

Director Carlson will have Superintendent Borgwardt contact him.

Commissioner Hapka noticed they are starting a new Pickle Ball league and was wondering if it was for adults or children?

Director Carlson wasn't sure on the details of it. He suggested she look in the Park and Recreation brochure, check our website, or call our staff to get further details.

B. Future of Our Parks Report – Park and Recreation System Plan

Director Carlson reported that we were talking with the City Council regarding the concept of franchise fees. The City Council has received information regarding them. This past Monday the Council decided they did not wish to investigate franchise fees any further. That it is not going to be an option for consideration to help fund infrastructure such as, roads, parks, etc. We will need to go back and see what our other options may be. We need to get this back on the Council's radar screen as it hasn't taken care of itself. We need to determine what we are going to do. We have been holding off on doing some replacements that we should be doing because we are not sure what our funding levels will be. He would hate for us to start investing into something to find out our funding would have been cut only to wish we would have spend the money somewhere else. We need to come to some conclusion in the near future so we can make some educated decisions as to what is the future of our parks.

Chair Eiden asked that after Easter they get the committee back together to resurrect that whole planning process. The group was intended to set a vision and a goal. We all know that we don't have money to do things, but we all know that if you set a vision and a goal, you would get further than if you don't. He wants them to actively pursue the rest of that plan. We will go into this knowing we have no money, and we don't know where it will be coming from. We will need to find other resources to fund them then.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Freer looks forward to the group's discussion.

Commissioner Hapka was disappointed that they didn't pursue the franchise fee. She felt it was a viable option for the City as it would have included parks as well as roads. Other cities take advantage of that program and it builds revenue. She agrees with Chair Eiden that it was an idea to pursue and look at, but for now, we go

forward with the plan, work on it, and still have a vision, regardless of whether we have the money, or the budget, to do the planning with.

Commissioner Boehmer had no comment.

Commissioner Huffman wished the sub-committee on the golf course well. They are going to need it.

Commissioner Tix was excited to be on the golf committee. Even though it will be challenging, it's something the City needs. She welcomes the challenge. They will all do their best to make it a success based upon our mission, whether it be with an outside company, or making changes as is. We are on that goal of making it the best that it can be.

Commissioner Krech wished those on the committee the best of luck. He wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Vice Chair Schueller asked about a detailed explanation sheet that contained month by month, how the rounds and revenue have progressed at the golf course. That sheet used to be in our Commission packets, but isn't anymore. He used that information to keep pretty good track of the success of the golf course. We don't see that anymore, and has asked about it in the past. If we can get those back in the packets, it will be helpful, not only to him, but to others on the Commission.

Chair Eiden asked if that is a function of the time of the year, or did we stop receiving them?

Director Carlson responded you are still receiving the information, but they are not part of the packet. That has been included in an email that is sent out on one Friday each month. The information also goes to the City Council.

Chair Eiden thinks spring is trying to come. There are a lot of things going on in town, and more will as the weather warms up. Please pay attention to the information coming out from the City. He wishes everyone a Happy Easter

11. ADJOURN

Motion by Commissioner Huffman, seconded by Commissioner Tix, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Aye: 8

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Park Dedication Requirements for Meridian Land Company (Fox Glen) – Case NO 14-12PUD

Meeting Date: May 14, 2014
 Item Type: New Business
 Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
 Prepared by: Eric Carlson
 Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

Fiscal/FTE Impact:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amount included in current budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	Budget amendment requested
<input type="checkbox"/>	FTE included in current complement
<input type="checkbox"/>	New FTE requested – N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Approve park dedication and trail requirements as recommended.

SUMMARY

Meridian Land Company is proposing 44 single-family residential sub-division called Fox Glen located at 1401 80th St E. The parcel has an irregular boundary and consists of 20.10 gross acres of land.

Park Land

The adopted Comprehensive Park Plan and Development Guide does not identify a need for a park in this general area; therefore, staff is not recommending the developer provide any park land dedication for this development.

Cash Dedication

It is recommended that the developer be required to provide cash in the amount of the rates in affect at the time the final plat is approved. The current 2014 rate is as follows:

44 units x \$2,850 = \$125,400

Trails/Sidewalks

- It is requested that the developer provide for ROW along 80th for a future trail/sidewalk
- It is requested the developer include a trail on the backside of the lots on the east side of the development. The developer should extend the trail down the eastern property line and connect to 80th St.
- The trail should be 8' – 10' in width and should be constructed with 6" of class V and 3" of bituminous and every effort should be made to have the trail meet ADA guidelines.

Tree Preservation

The issue of tree preservation is a planning issue and not a PRAC issue. However, the Planning Commission and City Council should be encouraged to make sure the City's ordinance related to tree preservation is followed and if the developer isn't replacing trees on a caliper per caliper inch as outlined that they are required to provide the necessary cash payment that would be deposited in the Tree Fund and used in public parks and open spaces.

Landscaping

Given the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) epidemic, ash trees should not be allowed to be planted and if any exist on the site should be required to be removed.

Update on Goose Management

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Meeting Date: May 14, 2014
Item Type: Agenda
Contact: Mark Borgwardt – 651.450.2581
Prepared by: Mark Borgwardt
Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

Fiscal/FTE Impact:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amount included in current budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	Budget amendment requested
<input type="checkbox"/>	FTE included in current complement
<input type="checkbox"/>	New FTE requested – N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Review attached material to familiarize you with municipal Canada goose removal options and requirements in an urban environment and what the City of Inver Grove Heights has done in the past and is currently doing.

SUMMARY

There are options the city has to help with the control of Canada geese throughout the city including parks which has been attached for your review.

Canada Goose Management In the Twin Cities

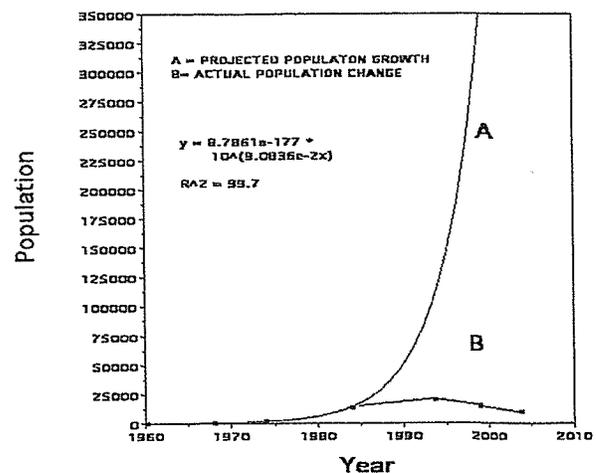
Canada geese populations in the Twin Cities metropolitan area pose a significant challenge. These challenges were identified in the early 1980's with the assistance and research of Dr. James Cooper at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Cooper is a renowned wildlife biologist and professor specializing in Canada geese. The MN Dept of Natural Resources in cooperation with Dr. Cooper and the City of Minneapolis Parks conducted the first Twin Cities Canada goose removal effort in 1982 on Lake of the Isles, when over 400 adult and young geese (called goslings) were captured and relocated to Oklahoma.

In 1954, no wild Canada geese nested in MN, but efforts by private individuals and natural resource agencies in the 1960-70s restored the Canada goose throughout MN, including in the Twin Cities metro area. Canada geese are a magnificent bird and highly prized by hunters and non-hunters alike. HOWEVER, too much of a good thing can become a problem.

The Twin Cities geography with large numbers of wetlands combined with an urbanization that favors lush green open grass areas resulted in creation of high quality Canada goose nesting and brood rearing habitat. In addition, low natural predation, limited hunting and abundant food resources (that lush green grass) created a "perfect storm" for high reproduction and survival. The problems or complaints began in the 1980's when Canada goose population exceeded the local social carrying capacity resulting in efforts to control local goose populations. Capture and relocation of urban goose populations was an effective way of reducing local urban goose populations and aiding in restoration efforts in other areas.

The removal program grew from over 400 in 1982 to 6000-8000 geese being removed annually in the 1990's. In 1996, relocation of adults was no longer possible, so a program began to process the adults and provide them to local food shelves. This change improved the control program and provided a socially acceptable means of utilizing adult geese. In 2006, goslings were no longer able to be relocated and another program that utilizes the goslings for animal food began. To date around 125,000 geese have been removed from the Twin Cities.

The removal program along with liberal hunting regulations has provided significant control on Canada goose populations in the Twin Cities. The current summer population of Canada geese in the metro area is estimated at between 13,000-16,000 geese. This population level has been maintained over the past 20 years. It is estimated that without Canada goose removal and liberal hunting regulations the local population within the Twin Cities would exceed 300,000 with a carrying capacity estimated at 500,000 geese.



*Population data from Dr. James Cooper, UM

Support from the DNR and UM for this program declined in the early 2000's. To meet on going needs for control, Dr. Cooper continued this effort with a private company "The Canada Goose Program". Dr. Cooper retired six years ago, and CGM was formed to continue these services by Dr. Cooper's former employees.

CGM provides Canada goose management services including:

- summer removal of geese
- spring nest and egg destruction
- spring goose removal (limited shooting), population surveys
- goose banding
- consultant services

Local governmental units and private landowners are encouraged to develop a goose management plan to address ongoing Canada goose issues. The cities of Burnsville and Eden Prairie had developed goose management plans and have been very successful in dealing with Canada geese issues.

The advantages of a Canada goose management plan is that it provides the city with tools to make informed decisions on what local management needs are and what solutions can be employed to address these needs. A good management plan can address Canada goose management in a more comprehensive and effective manner. This results in increased efficiency for city staff, cost effective management activities, and local citizen involvement and acceptance.

Plan development should include:

- identification of Canada goose habitat,
- existing or potential damage or problem sites,
- evaluation or determination of the degree of goose usage and/or damage,
- identify potential management techniques that can be employed to address the current problems,

- methods to prevent future development of damage sites,
- identify funding sources or criteria for funding management efforts,

Geese utilize a wide area therefore its helpful to approach this management on a larger geographic scale. Therefore, management plans for a city are more efficient than for an individual site.

Canada goose management techniques generally include;

- Physical displacement of the geese by applying goose repellents, fencing geese in or out of an area, harassment of geese with dogs, or people.
- Landscaping to reduce attractiveness of an area to geese, buffer strips, prairie seeding, and brushy cover.
- Population reduction through egg or nest destruction, summer removal, and hunting.

A publication that you might find interesting is entitled "Managing Canada Geese in Urban Environments, A Technical Guide" This publication is available from Cornell University at, <http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu/handle/1813/66> or contact me for a copy.

The MN DNR web site (search for Canada goose management) has a number of publications and information on urban goose management.

If you have further questions feel free to contact me... and thank you for the opportunity to visit with you on Canada goose management.

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CANADA GOOSE REMOVAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1/10/2001

The removal of nuisance geese from Minnesota cities and towns requires a state permit and is subject to Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) policies. Oversight of state-wide goose management programs by DNR requires a federal permit. Removal and relocation/processing for the food banks are considered when other methods of addressing nuisance situations are deemed ineffective. To conduct a nuisance goose removal within the metropolitan Twin Cities area (TCMA), the following DNR policies must be satisfied:

The removal of geese at any location within TCMA must be approved by the local government unit (LGU) with jurisdiction over the site. If more than one LGU has jurisdiction over the site (ie., Lake Owasso in Roseville and Shoreview) then all LGU's must approve the removal. Removal approval must include the establishment of a population goal (ie., 25 geese on lake in summer).

Municipalities with open space where goose hunting might be done safely must provide an evaluation of the potential for hunting if goose hunting is currently prohibited by a firearm discharge (see Metropolitan Twin Cities Area Goose Hunting Policy).

The steps for establishing and conducting a goose population reduction program and the agencies involved are:

1. Determine whether your site is in a class 1, 2, or 3 goose hunting area (check city shooting ordinances and contact your DNR Area Wildlife Manager.)
2. Establish target goose population reduction levels (DNR, city or township personnel, removal contractor).
3. Obtain city council or township board approval of proposed goose management program (city or township, removal contractor, DNR).
4. Ascertain goose population and site characteristics (removal contractor).
5. Prepare and approve removal contract (proposer and removal contractor).
6. Obtain state permit (removal contractor).
7. Capture and ship birds in summer (removal contractor in cooperation with DNR).
8. Monitor population to determine effectiveness of removal program (removal contractor and DNR).
9. Conduct additional removal as needed under contract (removal contractor).

The services provided by the removal contractor include the design of the removal program, public meeting participation, technical information on goose ecology and management, humane and professional removal of problem geese, coordination of permits and bird disposal, and evaluation of effectiveness of the removal program.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Discuss the City and Park & Recreation Department Mission Statement(s)

Meeting Date: May 14, 2014
Item Type: Administrative Presentations
Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
Prepared by: Eric Carlson
Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

Fiscal/FTE Impact:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	None
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amount included in current budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	Budget amendment requested
<input type="checkbox"/>	FTE included in current complement
<input type="checkbox"/>	New FTE requested – N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The City Council has asked that each of the advisory commissions review the City's and Department's Mission Statement.

SUMMARY

A mission statement is designed to capture in a short concise paragraph the purpose of the organization's existence and what actions it takes to fulfill this purpose. A mission statement defines the organizations purpose and primary objectives. A mission is an organization's reason for existence.

Recently, the City Council established a Mission Statement for the City which is as follows:

City Mission Statement

The Mission of the City of Inver Grove Heights is to provide services and facilities that enhance the quality of life in our vibrant community

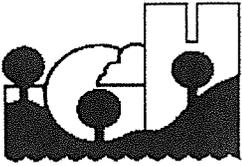
The Park & Recreation Department's Mission Statement is as follows:

Park & Recreation Department Mission Statement

We dedicate ourselves to providing quality programs, services, and facilities. We take pride in consistently adding value to the community and creating a positive experience for those we serve.

Department staff are currently reviewing the department's statement to make sure it does not conflict with the City's Mission Statement.

The Commission is encourage to comment.



City Mission Statement

The Mission of the City of Inver Grove Heights is to provide services and facilities that enhance the quality of life in our vibrant community.

Park & Recreation Mission Statement

We dedicate ourselves to providing quality programs, services, and facilities. We take pride in consistently adding value to the community and creating a positive experience for those we serve.

City Values

Ethical	doing the right thing
Engaged	collaborative results
Excellence	setting high standards & exceeding expectations

Park & Recreation Values

Accountability	Responsive to the community we serve by building public trust and confidence
Safety	We owe every one of our customers and employees a safe environment in which to play and work. An emphasis on safety is a cornerstone of both excellent customer service and effective business management
Positive Attitude	Talk positively about yourself, co-workers, the City; look at how things can be done, not why they can't be
Teamwork	The ability to all work together toward a common vision or goal
Customer Service	Personable, direct attention that delivers customer satisfaction
Excellence	Passion to do our best in each moment

City Vision Statement

TBD

Decision making criteria to frame decisions

- Ability to remain fiscally stable
- Improve or stabilize operational efficiencies
- Improve or stabilize customer service
- Be mindful of our regulatory environment

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Department Happenings

Meeting Date: May 14, 2014
Item Type: Administrative Presentations
Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
Prepared by: Eric Carlson
Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

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PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

No action required. Item is for informational purposes and Commissioners are encouraged to ask appropriate questions.

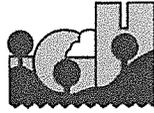
SUMMARY

Items included:

- Department Happenings Report
- Miscellaneous



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



Parks

Playground Inspections

A monthly playground inspection was conducted on all park playgrounds. As weather turns warmer and use on playgrounds increases it is important for playground equipment to be ready and safe for use. There are three playgrounds that have exceeded their life span with replacement being deferred for planning and budget reasons.

Cahill Spring Decorations

With the change of season Parks crew have removed the holiday flags and banners along Cahill Avenue and installed the American flags and banners. These decorations help give our downtown a splash of color and a touch of spring after a long winter.

Ballfield Maintenance

All Rich Valley and city wide ballfields and warning tracks were graded and dragged in preparation for season. Aglime was added where needed and bases, home plates, pitching rubbers were placed. Ballfield bases, home plate, pitching rubber and aglime/turf arc were also shot with GPS for future reference to assist with maintenance.

Soccer/Lacrosse Fields Preparation

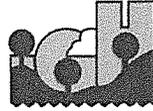
All city wide and Rich Valley soccer and lacrosse fields were measured out, painted and goals and nets placed for play. The new irrigated soccer and lacrosse field at Skyview Parks will have its inaugural season this year. Parks crew is able to juggle many spring tasks as the park system is readied for another busy year of use.

Swing Bridge Park

There has been much activity at Swing Bridge Park this spring removing invasive species and trees in area south of bridge and along river between bridge and marina. Utilizing grant dollars secured through Friends of the Mississippi River to hire a contractor and under the direction of Park Forester Brian Swoboda much buckthorn and other non-native species have been cut and piled in area. Work will continue this summer to implement restoration plan for area as described in grant. Mobilization for trail head and shelter construction this summer is taking place. Construction trailer and fence has been installed with actual construction to follow soon. Construction is scheduled to be completed in November.



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



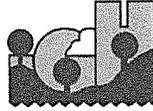
Inver Wood Golf Course

Inver Wood Golf Course

It has been a slow start this spring but we are hoping for better weather in May. The first week in May kicked off the weekly league seasons as well as our Group Lesson instruction. We are still accepting registrations for our Junior leagues, both Executive and Championship Course, and Group Lessons for summer sessions. We have begun reconstituting our Driving Range Facility. The mats have been reinstalled and the grass tee has been reseeded. The public response has been positive and they are glad to see the reversion back to the original business model. We have been making some changes and would be happy to hear any input that people within the city and the public would like to share. Please visit us at www.inverwood.org for all our information on programs, rates, and schedules.



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



Recreation

North Valley Disc Golf

Fairway Flyerz, Inc. will be opening the mobile sales the week of May 19. The mobile clubhouse will be open seven days a week from approximately noon.-7 p.m. through Labor Day. Fairway Flyerz, Inc. will sell annual and daily passes as well as discs and snacks.

Free Youth Tennis Block Party

Check out the great sport of tennis at this fun-filled tennis block party. Learn the basics of the sport and learn about all of our great summer tennis programs. The event is Saturday, May 31 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Simley High School tennis courts.

Huck Finn Fishing Derby

Our third annual fishing derby will be held on June 6 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Simley Island Pond. We will have casting competitions, contests and more. Each participant will receive a fishing goodie bag. Cost is \$5 per participant. For more information visit www.funatthegrove.com

Youth Volunteer Opportunities

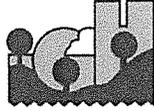
Our volunteer program for youth ages 12-16 is back for another summer. Youth will assist in programs, swim lessons, and special events. This is a great way for teens to gain valuable experience that is needed for future employment.

Mountain Bike Course Hosts Clinics/Events

The mountain bike course has seen a significant increase in popularity over the past few years. This year we will be hosting three (3) large racing events as well as REI and the Minnesota High School Cycling league will be hosting numerous clinics throughout the summer.



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



Veterans Memorial Community Center

It's Kids R.O.C.K Time

Our amazing summer program held at the community center is back again! The program is open to kids ages 5-12 and offers the opportunity for kids to enjoy the amenities of the community center, field trips, games, crafts, special guests, hands-on activities and more. Youth may attend 3-5 days a week from June 9-August 22. For more information visit www.funatthegrove.com

Teen Passport to Fitness

This great program is geared toward youth ages 10-14 and allows them to participate in fitness classes, workout and use the pool. Program starts June 9 and runs through August 29. Fee is \$59 for non-members and free with a Community Center household membership

World's Largest Swim Lesson/Visits to Schools

Staff has spent time this spring visiting the local elementary schools to help promote the World's Largest Swimming Lesson. This free lesson on June 20 from 10-11am will building awareness about the vital importance of teaching children to swim to prevent drowning. Kids will learn about swimming safety and basic skills to assist them in the water.

NRPA/Arthritis Walk with Ease Program

The Department was selected as one of six grantees in the country to receive the "Implementing Arthritis Interventions in Local Park and Recreation Agencies" grant. The grant, for \$4,000, has allowed the Department to implement the Walk with Ease program in collaboration with our local Arthritis Foundation office. So far to date, 42 participants have participated in the program with the ultimate goal of getting 85 participants through the program by September.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Commission Comments

Meeting Date: May 14, 2014
Item Type: Commission Presentations
Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
Prepared by: Eric Carlson
Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

No action required. Commissioners are encouraged to make appropriate comments.

SUMMARY

None.