

**City of Inver Grove Heights Minutes of the Proceedings  
Of The Park and Recreation Advisory Commission  
Wednesday, June 11, 2014**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Eiden called the June 11, 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, Mary Hapka, Deb Tix, Joe Boehmer, Mark Freer, and Kathryn Bauer  
Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson

**Absent:** Commissioner Jim Huffman  
Recording Clerk Sheri Yourczek

Chair Eiden wanted to introduce a new Commission member to the group. Kathryn Bauer has joined us. He asked that she tell us a bit about herself.

Commissioner Kathryn Bauer commented she goes by the name Katie. She has lived in Inver Grove Heights since 1990. She has two children who have been very active in Park and Recreation activities over the years. She thinks we have quality programs here and is interested in adding whatever she can to the programs. She is interested in learning a lot from everyone and offering whatever she can.

**3. PRESENTATIONS:**

**A. Introduction of Department Intern – Josh Fischer**

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson stated this evening Josh Fischer is here to tell you a bit about himself. He is our Park and Recreation Intern for the summer. Every year we try to get a Park and Recreation intern. Interns are students at colleges that are nearing, or at the end of their college career. This is an opportunity for them to get some work experience before they apply for their first job.

Intern Josh Fischer commented that he is from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He is finishing up his time at Minnesota State University in Mankato. He started here in mid-May and will go until the end of August. Some of the things he has worked on so far are:

-The Youth Volunteer Program. This is a program for youth ages 12 to about 16 or 17, to get volunteer experience as well as some kind of training for them to get jobs and a great way to give back to the community. This year we tripled the size of the program, which is working out really well.

-Random Acts of Fitness Program. We go out into the Community and catch people doing fitness activities and give them freebies to encourage them for being active.

-Kids Rock Program. He has helped out with some of the activities and programs that have gone on.

He thanked them for having him as an intern and is looking forward to working with the City of Inver Grove Heights.

Chair Eiden asked what his intentions were once he leaves this program in August?

Intern Fischer responded he has been looking for jobs within the Twin Cities Metro area.

Chair Eiden welcomed him and wished him luck in Minnesota.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A. You can find information regarding the City of Inver Grove Heights by visiting our Web Site at: [www.invergroveheights.org](http://www.invergroveheights.org)
- B. Next Meeting: July 16, 2014. Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes of May 14, 2014

Motion made by Commissioner Freer, seconded by Commissioner Krech, 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. **Elect Chair and Vice Chair**

Director Carlson stated each year the Commission appoints a Chair and Vice Chair. First off we will appoint a Chair for June 2014 through May 2015. Are there any Commissioners interested in the position of Chair, or does anyone wish to nominate someone for the position?

**Commissioner Schueller nominated Al Eiden to continue with the great job he has done as Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Krech.**

Director Carlson asked if there were any other nominations? Commissioner Eiden is the only nomination for Chair.

Aye: 8  
Nay: 0      Motion carried.

Chair Eiden thanked everyone.

Chair Eiden stated we need a Vice Chair. Are any Commissioners interested?

**Commissioner Krech felt if any were interested they should raise their hands, otherwise he will nominate Commissioner Schueller. Seconded by Commissioner Freer.**

Aye: 8  
Nay: 0      Motion carried.

Vice Chair Schueller thanked everyone and congratulated Chair Eiden.

Vice Chair Schueller commented that if Chair Eiden ever wishes to stop being Chair, we can move on with another Chairman. He does such an outstanding job.

Chair Eiden enjoys the fact that they think he is doing a great job. He always wants to leave the door open to other people to step up and have those opportunities. He has been Chair for eight years, along with Vice Chair Schueller.

## **B. Discuss Proposed Goose Control Program**

Director Carlson mentioned that over the last few Commission meetings we have been talking about geese issues in some of our parks. You have asked our Parks Superintendent, Mark Borgwardt, to do some research and have some cost estimates for the removal of geese in some of our higher goose populated parks. It would cost approximately \$4,000 to have a goose management program installed at the City Hall Campus Ponds and Simley Lake. Trapping would be between June 20<sup>th</sup> and July 20<sup>th</sup>, when the birds are molting. We would hire a DNR approved contractor and would have to get a permit to do that work. The cost would not exceed \$4,000 and would be taken out of our Parks Operating Budget.

**Motion by Commissioner Krech that we go ahead and do it since everyone thinks it is a major problem. Seconded by Commissioner Boehmer.**

Vice Chair Schueller asked why the golf course wasn't included as one of the areas we are managing. It is becoming more and more of a problem on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, where there is a green there. There was a discussion with golf course management about the problem.

Director Carlson stated from a Staff's perspective they didn't feel it was a higher goose population that warranted anything like this at the time. It is something they will continue to monitor and if it continues to become a problem, they may add that in the future.

Vice Chair Schueller stated he has seen the population increase there this year over what it was in the past. It is difficult to use that green on days it has been invaded by the geese. He feels continuing to look at it is important.

Chair Eiden asked if they wished to pursue anything further other than having them monitor?

Vice Chair Schueller will take them at their word that they are monitoring. He hopes that if it does continue to be a problem, they will take care of it. There are other lakes at the course that have geese but it's not a problem as there isn't a green there. It is a serious problem on the 18<sup>th</sup>. At this time he will wait and see.

Commissioner Krech felt we should find out what we can do now if it's a problem. What have they done before there?

Director Carlson stated they have used dogs to chase the geese away in the past.

Commissioner Bauer asked if they ever looked beyond just the parks. There is a pond down by the Assisted Living home on Cahill by 65<sup>th</sup> Street. The geese have created traffic problems there.

Director Carlson responded that our job is to manage city public property, not people's private property. There are resident geese and non-resident geese. Resident geese will be here all summer long and they come back year after year. In the fall you have migrating geese, otherwise called non-resident geese. What we are doing is not going to address the migrating geese that are going south for the winter. In the fall there is a goose hunt in Inver Grove Heights on some properties. But not in the locations we are talking about since they are public parks.

**Aye: 8**  
**Nay: 0**      **Motion carried.**

Director Carlson stated this will go before the City Council for their review and approval at their next meeting.

### **C. Discuss Dog Park Location – Heritage Village Park**

Director Carlson stated the Commission and the City Council have been talking about a Dog Park to be located somewhere in the Community for the last few years. We have looked at different sites within the town over the years. We have talked about one at River Heights Park, but the neighborhood wasn't interested in that so we changed locations. We have talked about Heritage Village Park and Lion's Park, as well as other locations that the City owns. This evening we are recommending that if we want a Dog Park, the best location would be Heritage Village Park. The diagram he showed would put the park at 65<sup>th</sup> and Concord, where the Mississippi River Regional Trail runs through the area. We are recommending the Heritage Village Park location as it is not in a neighborhood. We were asked what having a dog park would do for the Cities insurance? We contacted the insurance provider and there wasn't an impact. Another question that came up was related to dogs being vaccinated and licensed. There would be a permit people would have to fill out and they would have to prove that they are licensed and vaccinated and then the permit would expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of every year. We have developed a set of draft rules modeled after other dog parks in the metro area if we were to locate one in Inver Grove Heights. We also looked at what people charge for dog park usage. The range is somewhere between \$20 and \$40 for residents and \$30 to \$40 for non-residents. If we were to have one here, we would recommend \$20 for residents and \$40 for non-residents. At a minimum the dog park would have to have an off-street parking lot for about 15 to 20 cars. We would estimate the cost for construction of the parking lot to be approximately \$100,000 to \$200,000. Chain link fencing for a dog park for the size shown at 2500 lineal feet with a double gate system, would cost approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000. The double gate system allows you to enter the first gate, unleash the dog, and then enter the second gate unleashed. There would also be another gate to get maintenance vehicles in and out of the dog park. Site amenities such as trash cans and benches would cost about \$5,000 to \$10,000. Landscaping in the area would be needed as the area has few trees, so trees would have to be planted. We could add other items such as sun shelters, trails, and other site amenities. Those items are not have-to, as these depend on the popularity, interest, and investments in the dog park.

There are three potential funding sources.

1. The Park Acquisition and Development Fund, Fund 402. The balance in that fund right now is 1.3 million dollars.
2. We could possibly use the Metropolitan Council Grant that we have a balance of just under \$400,000. That Grant expires in December 2015. The challenge with that funding source is that because it is funding from the State of Minnesota we would have to use prevailing wage contracts to construct the parking lot and fence. There is a lot of paperwork that goes into that process.
3. The third potential funding source would be that we just received 2 million dollars from the State of Minnesota through the bonding bill from the last legislative session. We don't know what the expectations or rules would be that we need to follow regarding this is, so we don't know if that can be used for this purpose, but they anticipate that it could be used.

If we were to have a dog park right now, our City Ordinance states all dogs need to be on a leash for six feet or shorter. We would need to amend the ordinance to allow that dogs can be off leash if they are in the designated dog park within the City of Inver Grove Heights.

Right now you have an outline of roughly six acres with a 2500 foot perimeter fence that would have to be constructed. The Master Plan locates it by 65<sup>th</sup> Street and Concord. There is not a lot of activity or future construction designated here. There was a building designated here from the Master Plan, but that could be easily relocated to a different area of the park. That was either the old school house out at Rich Valley or the old Town Hall on River Road.

Commissioner Boehmer stated at one point in the Master Plan there was to be a dog park in this area. As a Commission we decided not to put it in there due to the other buildings. At that time we mentioned the choices we had for a dog park that included Lions Park, or the second location was the open prairie land down by the gun club. Did that ever get looked into?

Director Carlson stated we have talked about land north of Lions Park for a dog park. As we have discussed in the past, we don't own the land yet and we would have to buy the land from MN DOT. Instead of taking 15 to 20 acres of the land that we would have to buy, it might be more advantageous to have a developer develop the land and have the land stay on the tax rolls from a revenue standpoint. With regards to the land by the gun club, it may not be a good idea at having a dog park that close to a gun range as some dogs are going to be gun shy. They may not behave well if they hear gun shots. That's why we picked out this location.

Commissioner Tix commented that her dog is gun shy. When she takes her dog down to the Rosemount/Coates area, and there are guns that go off in that area from time to time, it's not just her dog that takes off and runs at the sound. It's several as they don't like the gun shots. She didn't feel it was a good area for dogs.

Commissioner Hapka liked the dog park in the area suggested. The topography would accommodate the area for the dog park. We don't have to purchase the area. She thinks it's a good idea, good location.

Commissioner Tix stated there also isn't a large residential area nearby. It's a good area as it doesn't affect the residents much by any noises the dogs may make.

Commissioner Krech asked about parking. Would it be on the south end there? If we make this recommendation, it doesn't mean anything if we don't kick in some money. Which one of these funds do you recommend we use?

Director Carlson agreed about the parking lot location. As for funding, we are not recommending a funding option at this time, but more or less the location. First the Council needs to agree with the need for a dog park, and at this location. With at least two of the sources we could use for funding, we may want to look at connecting that construction with upgrading 65<sup>th</sup> Street and possibly a few other little projects in the area. It may not get constructed right away, maybe in 2015. We need to figure out if this is the location we want to recommend to City Council.

Commissioner Krech asked if all on the Commission agree with the location? It's not centrally located. Lion's Park was in the middle of town for people to go to.

Commissioner Hapka stated South St. Paul has their dog park right down by the river and it looks pretty busy most of the time.

Commissioner Bauer likes that it is close to the trail. She has been to the South St. Paul one. There are all kinds of people that are out there. She thinks it's an outstanding location.

Dennis Madden, 8137 Cleadis Avenue, felt there was a tremendous amount of resistance from several people on the Council to having it at Lion's Park. Their argument was that that land was too valuable to having a dog park there. He has a gun shy dog as well. He would agree that area down by the gun club wouldn't be a great location.

Commissioner Krech asked Mr. Madden if this was going to work out? He knows people want a dog park.

Mr. Madden felt all you needed was a level piece of land and a fence. Trees are a good idea. It's not just for the dogs; it's a nice social place for people too. He goes down to South St. Paul alot and many ask why they don't

build one in Inver Grove Heights. If they do want shelters there, he has spoken to a few people in the past and some have commented that they would be willing to volunteer the time to build one.

Commissioner Krech felt that people have been asking for a dog park here for about ten years. We've just been trying to figure out a spot.

Mr. Madden commented that one member of the City Council is opposed to any kind of a dog park. That's the one problem we have. He doesn't know how the others will go. He is in favor and would like to do it. He hopes it will be built soon. He appreciates all the work Director Carlson has done on it. He would like to see it happen. It doesn't need to be centrally located. They drive to South St. Paul now as it is.

Commissioner Freer stated he was up at South St. Paul's yesterday using the trail. A lot of people use the trails and walk the dogs as much as they are in the park. Being in a regional area there is really good. They have black fencing that they used, it blends in better. It doesn't stand out. One thing his wife has seen is a small dog area within the park. Sometimes you mix the two and they don't always get along. That's just something to think about. It also needs an outhouse. He asked about the picture, it shows a pond? He wasn't sure how that would play out. He likes his dogs to be able to use the water, but some may see long hair dogs and water, and then going to your car doesn't always mix well. You may want to go to dog owners and ask whether that area with water needs to be fenced off or not.

Director Carlson responded there is a low spot on the property. That is where the blue color is located on the Master Plan. You will get comments on both sides as to whether water should be on the site or not.

Commissioner Tix commented with regards to having a water area at the park. There are some places that have water outside the park to wash your dog off before they get in the car. It is especially nice if the water is yucky, like at the Burnsville park.

Commissioner Freer felt this was a great location.

Chair Eiden stated as some know, he has been opposed to this location. He favored the land north of Lions Park for a dog park. Since he was concerned about this location, he decided to go down there to take a look. He felt in this small area we wanted to pack in other things, the school house, old City Hall, interpretation center, etc. Suddenly right next to that we are going to put a busy dog park. If you look down there, there are ways that you can separate those two kinds of things on that property. He doesn't have a problem moving it to that location. He was concerned if you look at the schedule of costs, it states "It is important to point out that if and when a dog park is constructed, the new amenities will create a need to add more funding to the Park Capital Replacement Fund 444". That has been happenstance as we have gone over the past 20 years. What that has done is put us in a position as we have no money to maintain stuff. Things wear out. We need to make a recommendation as a practice when we go after new amenities here, to start saying we will start reserving money at the front end in whatever quantities is appropriate so we can replace things. Part of the recommendation is that we need to pay attention to the fact that things will need to be replaced.

Commissioner Tix asked if that could be as simple as having the user fee be directed for?

Commissioner Hapka felt that is a great idea. It is something we have to look at every time we approve new amenities and facilities. It does have to be maintained over time. Council will definitely have to allocate additional funding based on staff recommendations. She agrees with Chair Eiden as it does have to be part of the recommendation.

Chair Eiden stated right now it's just prairie grass sitting down there. If we develop that, all of a sudden we have six more acres of property that grass has to be cut, fences mended, and the trash has to be picked up. We keep adding things on, and we never seem to pay attention to the fact that there is a consequence to what we

need to do. We have done a pretty good job of building things. We need to pay more attention to taking care of them and maintaining it. He wants the Commission to be forward thinking when we recommend things so that people will consider that there are consequences to what we are doing.

Commissioner Bauer asked if there has ever been any thought of having some sort of pass that you can take your dog to multiple dog parks throughout the cities. This could be some kind of passport. That may be a way to bring people into our City, to have some sort of revenue. She has a similar pass at the zoo.

Director Carlson responded there has not been any conversation about that, and he isn't aware of any effort or conversation amongst professionals to that regard.

Commissioner Hapka asked if Director Carlson knew what the dog park in South St. Paul brings in annually?

Director Carlson doesn't remember the number off-hand. He will look at that information and email it to the Commission when he has it.

Vice Chair Schueller asked if we have guaranteed that the gun club is far enough away from the newly proposed site? He was just at a golf course up in Blaine and they could hear the noise farther away. Has anyone stood down there to see if the sound of shooting can still be heard?

Director Carlson stated you will be able to hear the sound of gun shots all over the park. You just won't be able to hear it as loudly in this location of the park as you would in the north location of the park. You can hear gunshots on the Rock Island Swing Bridge.

Commissioner Freer felt it wouldn't be as loud as being next to it.

Chair Eiden stated the proposal before us is whether or not to consider Heritage Park as a location for the dog park.

**Motion made by Commissioner Hapka that the Council takes a look at locating the dog park at Heritage Park. Seconded by Commissioner Bauer.**

Vice Chair Schueller felt good points have been made on both sides. Cities oftentimes will share facilities. Like South St. Paul comes to Inver Wood for the public golf course. For our City to cross over the border to use their dog park, which is actually about two miles from this one, he feels that is another thing to look at. He understands that it is the responsibility of the City to provide for citizens, and citizens do like the idea of a dog park. He thinks it's a good idea to have our own, but there may be people out there who say why not just use the other ones nearby?

Commissioner Freer stated it was actually 5 ½ miles away according to his GPS.

**Aye: 8**

**Nay: 0      Motion carried.**

#### **D. Change July PRAC Meeting Date from July 9 to July 16**

Chair Eiden asked if anyone had an issue with the date change of the meeting? Meeting date changed as specified.

### **9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **A. Review Commissioners Handbook**

Director Carlson stated every year we put together the Commissioner's Handbook. If you have had a chance to look through it, there is a new roster, as well as information on facts and figures of the Parks and Recreation system. There is a planning calendar of items you will hear about on a month to month basis, job descriptions, and general information too. He can stand by and answer any questions you may have on the handbook.

## **B. Northwest Area Park and Trail Plan**

Director Carlson stated we will be holding an Open House for the Community to look at the Northwest Area Park Plan coming up on June 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 at the Community Center Room 1. This item will go back before you on July 16<sup>th</sup>. That would be a great time for the Commissioners to provide comments and talk about the different components of the plan. At this time he will go through a quick PowerPoint presentation that he used for the City Council. It is as follows:

### Northwest Area Park Planning

- 2007. NW Area Park and Trail Plan
- 2009. Part of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan
- Evaluate the Park Service Area(s).
- Connect Trails to Parks and People
- Goal is to identify specific pieces of property that we would like to become parks and trails.

### Proposed NW Area Park & Trail Plan

- 6 Parks
- Connected by 10 to 15 miles of trail
- Take advantage of Park Open Space requirements.
- Flexible program space to respond to program changes in demographics
- Use parks to promote and encourage active living and healthy lifestyles

### Parks and Trail System Comparison

- We currently have 28 parks, and a population of 34,000 people. That puts us at about 1,200 residents per park in our community.
- We have 26 miles of off-road trails. That equals about 1,300 residents per mile of trail.
- There are 609 acres of parks, not including the golf course. That's about 56 residents per acre of parkland.
- We have 14 playgrounds.

We are providing about the same, sometimes more, sometimes less, in regards to ratios.

There are six parks in the proposed northwest plan.

We would go from 28 to 34 parks.

We would go to a population of about 49,000. That would be about 1,400 residents per park. Trails would be between 36 to 41 miles of trail. Equal to about 1,400 to 1,200 of people per mile of trail.

Park acreage of 665 or 691 acres of parkland or 74 residents per acre. We would have a few more residents per acre of parkland.

It would increase our playgrounds from 14 to 19, which would equal about 2,500 to 2,600 of residents per playground.

### Anticipated Park Dedication Revenue

-If the entire northwest quadrant would be developed as we envision it we would have approximately 19.8 million dollars in revenue through Park Dedication. We propose housing at 6,040 units in the northwest area, but we are only using 80% of that when we project our revenues. This assumes we take all of our Park Dedication in cash. Then we need to turn around and use some of that cash to buy land to build parks.

### Anticipated Park Development Investments

Listed are some of the different amenities, as well as land acquisition and the development of the parks themselves. We would invest about 16 million to 28 million dollars in both the acquisition of land and the construction of amenities in the area. That includes trails, tennis courts, playgrounds, picnic shelters, etc., in the northwest area.

#### Next Steps

- Open House on June 25<sup>th</sup>
- Brought back to the Parks Commission on July 16<sup>th</sup>
- In July we would hold a public hearing in front of the Planning Commission
- City Council meeting August 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### Map of Proposed Plan shown which includes drawings of the following:

- Different park locations
- Roadway plans anticipated based on transportation network study done by the Engineering Department.
- Trails anticipated to connect parks and neighborhoods
- Greenway that Dakota County has proposed between Mendota and Lebanon Hills Regional Park. Trails proposed there so that people in Inver Grove Heights can go to either Mendota or Lebanon Hills Regional Park.

Chair Eiden asked about the anticipation that we take in 20 million dollars in revenue from people developing properties. To develop what we have listed here, we would be spending between 17 and 28 million dollars. His point in raising this question is that it makes it imperative that the Future of Our Parks Committee get some prioritization on the things we wanted to have out there.

He asked how many years out before we are at that estimated population?

Director Carlson responded 20 to 25 years is the projection. It is highly likely that the park plan will change during that period.

Commissioner Krech asked about the Greenspace. Does any of that space add up to become park area?

Director Carlson responded it was possible.

#### **C. Department Happenings**

Commissioner Hapka stated she has been using the new Regional Trails that have been added in the south area out of Inver Grove Heights. Will there be any benches added?

Director Carlson stated that is a County question. He can ask them the question. He does know they are pursuing a Grant to build a trailhead facility to overlook the river, that is another few years out, but he can ask the County and report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Krech asked about mowing the trail on Cahill. Why don't they cut out to the street?

Director Carlson could find out.

Commissioner Freer asked how much the grant was for the Salem Bike trail? He thought it could use a mow as it was pretty high.

Director Carlson doesn't know the details of the Grant, but he can report back on that. They are a little bit behind on their mowing, but that is one of the areas they do.

#### **D. Future of Our Parks Report – Park & Recreation System Plan**

Commissioner Hapka stated they haven't met prior to the last Commission meeting. They will be meeting Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 7:30. They invite any residents that would like to take part in the committee to provide their input as to what they would like to see in our parks. The meeting is at City Hall.

Vice Chair Schueller updated everyone on the Golf Course. It is a two pronged effort. It is a continuing process, hopefully for years to come. Some big things they have going on is a junior membership. For \$400.00 kids 18 and under can play at the golf course with a season pass. They can play throughout the season with restricted times at both courses. It is a big step in the right direction to get more participation and regular play at this golf course. The membership serves a good purpose in that as soon as the season starts, we get revenue right away. This brings more people in. This is a test to see if memberships are going to work. We may look into seniors and adult memberships in the future. We have several schools that play at Inver Wood interested in the memberships. The drawback for this year was that we already have had two months pass us. Next year this would probably be more popular. The other programs at Inver Wood that have changed is that we have a tournament format now. They didn't have that in the past years. We have revised the group outing, which is a smaller non-profit type group that goes out. The driving range is more customer friendly as well with balls being sold by hand rather than by machine at certain times of the day. Inver Wood has now become a member of the Minnesota Public Golf Association which is a step in the right direction for professionalism, and could possibly bring in events. The junior league is a big improvement. We have had juniors play just on the executive course. Now they can play on the championship course. Maybe next year they can have an 18 hole advanced league as well as a development league for just nine holes. There have been a lot of big changes, not just in programming but in the culture. They are more open minded to change with the new management. The bottom line is if we can get more people to go and play there, then you have more rounds. When you have more rounds you have more revenue.

The other part of the golf course work that is being done is a work group. That group includes Commissioners Tix and Freer as well. That is a process by which if the golf course is not successful, and we continue to lose money, we look at a possibility for a request for proposal (RFP) which is when you put out bids for management to run the course. Then decide who manages what, who has the costs, profits, etc. if you choose to go with outsourcing the golf course. We have had meetings with Director Carlson, the City Staff and this Commission to take a look at how that might work. It is a bit of a trend with some golf courses in the metro area, it is not unique to Inver Wood. So far the consensus is that we would like to see the new management be successful so that outsourcing is not necessary. This way we will be prepared either way.

Commissioner Freer felt it was a very complicated issue. Outsourcing versus City owned has pluses and minuses on either side. We are taking a close look at both. The new management and what Vice Chair Schueller have done have been very good. He felt we will have a good report at the end on both issues, but it will take some time.

Commissioner Tix stated we have met twice since our last meeting. We did a tour of the course. There were some areas of the course that were not in as good of condition as we had hoped. Those have been addressed. The course is back on track to where we would like to see it look.

Vice Chair Schueller stated on the maintenance side, the course had a poor start. The effort has been there to improve that. Three problem areas were identified. The areas along the cart paths were not manicured, or repaired quickly enough. The second thing was the sand traps were in bad shape. They need more attention and also possibly to look at adding better sand over a period of time. The third thing was the fact that the fairways have a lot of winter kill. More than most golf courses did, which was probably due to budget cuts. It goes back to where you try to cut money and then you end up having a problem someplace else. Hopefully we have learned a lesson there. Hopefully in the future we can continue to do what we have done for many years and that's to keep the course in shape.

Commissioner Krech felt Vice Chair Schueller was the key role for this and thanked him.

#### **10. COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Freer appreciated the re-appointment to the Commission. He looks forward to the next three years and looks forward to working with this group. There are some very important issues we will be

addressing over the next three years. Making sure we have enough funding for what we are building is one. We need to establish good funding sources. He has enjoyed his time here and looks forward to more years ahead.

Commissioner Hapka appreciates the renovations at Skyview Park. Her kids play soccer and lacrosse there and have nothing but good things to say about the facility. They enjoy practicing and having games there.

Commissioner Boehmer congratulated the Chair and Vice Chair as well as the new Parks Commissioner.

Vice Chair Schueller wanted to say he appreciated the efforts at Inver Wood to help high school golfers. We had two kids from Simley, one from Cretin, and one from Eagan, all in the State Tournament. This community is developing young people that are very good in sports; golf is a good example of that.

Commissioner Krech wanted to thank those Commissioners for holding the positions they have. Thanks for doing that. Thanks for those on the board. It takes a good effort by those that are here. He has to say that money is the big problem to maintain what we have.

Commissioner Tix welcomed Commissioner Bauer as well as congratulated the Chair and Vice Chair. She looks forward to how we can help this Community build our parks to the quality that they are.

Commissioner Bauer thanked the Commission for welcoming her so warmly. She is very excited to be a part of this Commission. She is glad to be a part of the planning. She can devote more time to something like this and is very excited about being a part of the future of our parks. She is interested in the non-traditional uses for our parks, for example, geo-caching, so that's why she is here.

Chair Eiden stated it will be a busy summer. There are a lot of things going on in town, so please keep watch with the Vet Center and your brochures. He wants to pay a tribute to this Commission. They are all working very hard on one of the greatest things to make living for you pleasurable out here. They are all on committees that are moving forward to doing positive things here. This Commission is doing a great job at trying to promote the positive. Keep track of us, join us, we are glad we are here to serve you.

## **11. ADJOURN**

**Motion by Commissioner Freer, seconded by Vice Chair Schueller, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

**Aye: 8**

**Nay: 0            Motion carried.**