

**City of Inver Grove Heights Minutes of the Proceedings
Of The Park and Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, January 13, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Eiden called the January 13, 2016 Park and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Al Eiden; Vice Chair Mark Freer; Commissioners: Willie Krech, Deb Tix, Kathryn Bauer, Patrick Farley, Kevin Sethre, and Joe Boehmer

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson

Absent: Recording Clerk Sheri Yourczek

Chair Eiden asked if they were looking into filling the open position before May?

Park and Recreation Director Eric Carlson responded the City is actively seeking people interested in vacancies on various Commissions. If anyone watching tonight is interested in becoming a part of one of the Cities Advisory Commission's he encourages them to go to our website, download the application, fill it out, and then Staff and the Mayor will take it from there.

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. Find us on Facebook at Inver Grove Heights Parks & Recreation

C. Follow us on Twitter at @IGH Parks

D. Next Meeting: February 10, 2016. Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2015

Motion by Commissioner Krech to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Tix .

Aye: 8

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

8. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Consider Park Dedication Requirements for Eternity Homes LLC – Case NO 15-47SV

Director Carlson stated Eternity Homes has proposed to develop property north of Skyview Park between Dawn and Craig Avenue. They are proposing a 23 lot single family subdivision. Due to the fact that we do not see a need for additional parkland in the area, we are recommending the developer pay cash dedication of \$65,550.00. Our 2011 Trail Gap Plan does not see a need for trails in the area. Tree Preservation states if there are trees that are going to be removed we recommend the City Council follow the tree preservation ordinance. As far as a landscape plan we wouldn't want to see the developer plant Ash trees in any of the new lots given the Emerald Ash Borer infestation in the area.

Motion by Commissioner Krech to approve as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Bauer.

Aye: 8

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

B. Consider Park Dedication Requirements for Blackstone Highlands – Case NO 15-38PUD

Director Carlson stated this dedication is for Blackstone Highlands located in the northwest area by Argenta Trail and 70th Street. This is planned to be a 40 lot subdivision. The northwest area park and trail plan is not indicating a need for a park in the area as a park will be located on the other side of Argenta Trail. We are recommending cash dedication for \$111,150.00. With regards to sidewalks and trails, the Mendota/Lebanon Greenway is being constructed to run through the area. We are proposing the developer construct a trail to link to the Regional Greenway. Unfortunately only part of the trail can be built for now; the rest of it would be finished in the future.

Vice Chair Freer asked if the Greenway is set as it is, or can it be changed?

Director Carlson said it has been approved. We are waiting on the Joint Powers Agreement from the County. Once we have that, we will give notice to the contractor to do construction on the trail itself.

Commissioner Sethre asked if the access trail would be part of an easement agreement with the developer?

Director Carlson responded the access trail would be in a City owned outlot, but the developer is required to build the trail. He believes the trail itself is on City property, but if not the City would have a trail easement in the outlot.

Motion by Commissioner Krech to approve as presented.

Commissioner Boehmer asked if there was a sidewalk that comes out to the road?

Director Carlson believed there was a sidewalk located in two locations along the road.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Boehmer.

Aye: 8

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

C. Establish Work Study Session to Discuss 2016 Park Commission Work Plan

Director Carlson suggested that after this meeting is over they adjourn into a work study session and talk about establishing a work plan and a set of goals for 2016. We will bring back that plan to our meeting in February.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS:

A. Department Happenings

Director Carlson wanted to go through a power point presentation in reference to a Greenway project that the City is working on along with Dakota County and some partners. This is in regards to the Rich Valley Greenway Master Plan.

Dakota County adopted a Greenway Plan a number of years ago. There are a number of Greenways in the County to connect the Community to a number of places of interest. One of the Greenways we are talking about tonight is referred to as the Rich Valley Greenway.

The County Greenway vision includes having a recreation component, transportation, and they will use it to improve habitat for wildlife, and water quality. Part of this is in the City of Eagan, with the other part in the City of Inver Grove Heights.

As part of the Master Planning Process is they are hoping to have the Greenway designated as a Regional Trail so they can seek funding from the Met Council and the State of Minnesota.

City Staff will be part of the planning process with regards to how the plans could impact any plans the City has. The City Council and the Park Commission would review it and make a recommendation just like we did for the Mendota/Lebanon Regional Greenway.

Trail alignment has not been decided yet. They are looking at several options. An example follows:

One would be Highway 3, and then the Inver Grove Heights/ Eagan border and Cliff Road. There are a couple of different options, whether it could start at Lebanon Hills Regional Park, or further north, by a power line easement, then it could connect to Trapp Farm Park development. They need to figure out how to get across Highway 3 into Inver Grove Heights. The goal is to ultimately connect somewhere along the Mississippi River Regional Trail. Right now we are collecting data and looking at analysis. There will be an Open House in February to introduce the plan and gather feedback. In April and May they would Draft the Master Plan for completion and review and have another Open House after the County has refined the plan a bit. Their goal is to have a final Master Plan in May/June.

This is a Dakota County project, not a City one, but we are a partner in the project and we are participating in the process.

Chair Eiden asked if the County is going to try to get input from all of the Communities that have Greenway's projected and then look at Master Plans? Will they be doing this in some kind of order?

Director Carlson responded while the Mississippi River Regional Trail is a Greenway, that planning was done long before they came up with this vision. The Mendota/Lebanon Hills Greenway is a part of this vision and was a planning process they went through. It has been approved by the Met Council. They are looking to get land control to actually build it. We are building that in the Blackstone Vista. The next one they are working on is the Rich Valley Greenway. After that is done they will work on the next one.

Commissioner Sethre asked where this is advertised?

Director Carlson responded that Dakota County is completely responsible for the process. They will end up setting up the meetings, locations, meeting dates and times. They will work around City meetings, etc.

Commissioner Farley asked what the approximate cost of our share was?

Director Carlson responded that there isn't a direct cost to the City of Inver Grove Heights. Through the development process we negotiate with the developer, and then we work it out with them to have that happen. We didn't give up any park dedication nor spend money to construct a trail.

Director Carlson stated he didn't have anything further to share. Due to the Holiday's he didn't have a prepared report to share at this time.

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

Chair Eiden stated he had promised the Commissioners a guide path. The next thing would be to develop a session to talk about that. Some ideas would be what the plan should accomplish, as well as some criteria and rules that should go into planning as to what the park plan is. He will work with Director Carlson to set up a meeting.

C. Update on Dog Park Sub-Committee

Director Carlson stated the group of resident volunteers had a meeting last night. They are planning on addressing the Commission at the February 10th meeting. They are trying to see who is interested in being a part of the process, if there is enough interest in the Community to warrant a dog park and push forward, or if there isn't there enough interest and to perhaps push it to the back burner for now.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Vice Chair Freer appreciated Chair Eiden struggling through the meeting tonight as half the Commission has colds.

Commissioner Farley had no comment.

Commissioner Boehmer wished everyone a Happy New Year. Make it a good one.

Commissioner Bauer had no comment.

Commissioner Tix had no comment.

Commissioner Sethre had no comment.

Commissioner Krech had no comment.

Chair Eiden commented there are a number of things going on and we would like you to participate if possible. You are always invited to our meetings in regards to Parks and Recreation. He wishes this Commission a prosperous and busy New Year.

11. ADJOURN

Motion by Vice Chair Freer to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Farley.

Aye: 8

Nay: 0 Motion carried.