

**City of Inver Grove Heights Minutes of the Proceedings
Of The Park and Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, February 10, 2010**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Eiden called the February 10, 2010 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: Tammy Johnson, Jim Huffman, Marty Silvi, Stan Johnson, and Keith Joyce

Park and Recreation Director Eric Carlson, Recording Clerk Sheri Yourczek

Absent: Commissioners Joe Boehmer and Willie Krech

3. PRESENTATIONS:

A. Update on Potential Dog Park at River Heights Park

Parks Superintendent Mark Borgwardt spoke regarding the proposed location at River Heights Park for the Dog Park. A Public Meeting was held and over 40 letters were sent out to the neighborhood. Most in attendance were opposed to it and did not want it in that location. We are suggesting looking at other sites such as:

- Heritage Village Park – 4321 65th Street East
- MNDOT land north of Lion's Park – 2423 65th Street East
- Marianna Ranch -9125 Alverez Avenue

Along with those locations they are suggesting the following criteria for consideration:

- Area approximately 5-10 acres
- Place for adequate parking not intrusive to neighborhood
- Gently rolling terrain with open and wooded areas
- Room for trail loop within dog park area
- Existing park property that is currently under utilized for public use
- Property can be easily fenced to contain dogs

Bob Kuehn, 7911 Blackstone is in support of the dog park and has been attending the one in Coates for six years now. It's located in a large open area and a volunteer council runs it. The cost to become a member is \$40.00 a year and the council takes care of the park. He didn't feel the area was loud, but having real clear criteria is important to have. Their park is located on 16 ½ acres and probably has about 25 people there at a time.

Chair Eiden suggested they get the Dog Park Committee back together and let us know of any updates they come up with.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

www.ci.inver-grove-heights.mn.us

B. The next Park and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting will be March 10, 2010. Work Session 6:45 p.m.; Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

C. Outdoor Skating Rinks are Open – Check the website for more information.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of Minutes of December 9, 2009

Motion by Commissioner Joyce, seconded by Commissioner Huffman to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

8. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Determine Topics for Joint Meeting with the City Council

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson stated the Commission will be meeting in a Joint Work Study Session on Monday, March 8th at 5:30 p.m. with the City Council to discuss the Park and Recreation Department plans for the coming year. At this time the Commission should develop an agenda for the meeting. This is our one chance to discuss items jointly with the City Council and only 30 minutes is set aside. He has suggested the following items for discussion:

- Rock Island Swing Bridge/Heritage Village Park
 - *Master Plans
 - *Discuss Possible “Re-Master Planning”
- VMCC
 - *VMCC Capital Improvements Program (Grove Side is almost ten years old)
 - *Audit Update
- Park Boundary Survey
 - *General Discussion
- Inver Wood Golf Course
 - *General Discussion
- Miscellaneous
 - *Perhaps add Dog Park

If there is anything else the Commission would like to discuss, please let him know and they can modify the agenda accordingly.

Commissioner Joyce asked if we could add Old Town Hall Park on there as well? He agreed with the discussion on the Dog Park.

Vice Chair Schueller asked if these needed to be prioritized?

Commissioner Huffman liked the idea of Heritage, Swing Bridge, and Old Town Hall all being one park.

Chair Eiden liked the priority idea. He would like to see expectations from the Council for this Commission. He is unsure how they feel about how we are doing. He is unsure why we can't draft these ideas in the future and they can get back to us. He also suggested they put Dog Park under Miscellaneous, and forget the Miscellaneous.

Commissioner Joyce suggested they prioritize the list as follows:

- Rock Island (1)
- Park Boundary (2)
- Inver Wood (3)
- VMCC (4)
- Dog Park (5)

Commissioner Silvi felt VMCC should be listed second.

Vice Chair Schueller agreed with the order thus far. The Grove in particular is something we need to talk about. He would like to see us cover all of these and have a real precise time for discussion.

Director Carlson suggested they prioritize as follows:

1. Rock Island Swing Bridge
2. VMCC
3. Inver Wood
4. Park Boundary
5. Dog Park

He stated he would give this as a PowerPoint presentation. That would keep them on task so they would be able to highlight the major issues of each of these items.

Chair Eiden felt that if this is given as a PowerPoint presentation, perhaps the Council can listen to it and then give us a response at another time.

Vice Chair Schueller thought that was a good idea.

The Commission agreed on the order of the agenda.

B. Set VMCC Ice Rates for the 2010-11 Season

Director Carlson introduced Michael Sheggeby, Recreation and Arena Manager, to those that haven't met him at a previous meeting. He will be speaking about setting the ice rates for the 2010-11 Season.

Recreation and Arena Manager Michael Sheggeby stated he is here to speak regarding the 2010-2011 Ice Arena rates. As part of our lease agreement between School District 199 and the City of Inver Grove Heights that we entered into in May of 1995, it stipulates that the Community Center Advisory Committee (CCAC), consisting of the City Administrator, Finance Director, Park and Recreation Director, School District Business Manager, and Activities Director meet to discuss operational issues at the VMCC. The CCAC is charged with establishing the market rate ice time at the VMCC by using a prescribed list of area arenas to establish an "average" ice rate. They checked ten surrounding community rates. Some Cities they looked at were South St. Paul, Eagan, Rosemount, and West St. Paul, to name a few. The average was \$191 for prime time rates and \$147 for non-prime time rates. When we looked at the rates for this year we looked at who we compete with in the area and that would be the cities of Eagan and Rosemount. Looking at their rates for prime and non-prime, right now we are charging \$190 for prime and \$140 for non-prime. Looking at those rates, we have decided not to raise our rates for this season as Eagan's rates are \$180/\$112 and Rosemount's are \$185/\$125. We are also looking at the possibility of splitting our summer/winter season. Changing that from October-March and then summer from March-September.

Vice Chair Schueller asked how they are doing now that there is no longer Simley JV Hockey. What happened to those hours?

Manager Sheggeby responded they were still financially committed to those hours, but they have sold some of those hours to other Associations.

Vice Chair Schueller asked if there was open hockey?

Manager Sheggeby said they do have open adult hockey during the day.

Motion by Commissioner Joyce, seconded by Commissioner T. Johnson to recommend approval of the proposal as presented.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

C. Review the Draft Master Plan for the Rock Island Swing Bridge Property

Director Carlson stated this item is to approve the proposed Master Plan for the 21.53 acres of property adjacent to the Rock Island Swing Bridge. The City was awarded a \$1,300,000 Federal Grant, \$100,000 MN Historical Society Grant, and \$150,000 from Dakota County and plans to construct a 670' recreational pier. On May 26th the City Council hired SEH Inc. to assist the City in preparing the plans and specifications, permitting, and coordination. On December 14th, 2009 the City Council approved the plans and specifications and authorized the project for public bidding of the recreational pier. The bids on the project will be opened on Thursday, February 11, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. SEH was hired to help the City develop a Master Plan for the site. The Park and Recreation Commission established a subcommittee consisting of the following:

- *Commissioner Willie Krech
- *Commissioner James Huffman
- *Commissioner Keith Joyce
- *City Planner Allan Hunting
- *Parks Superintendent Mark Borgwardt
- *Recreation Superintendent Tracy Petersen
- *Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson

The subcommittee met on several occasions and developed the draft Master Plan. The draft plan includes:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| -Off street parking | -Paved trails |
| -River viewing area(s) | -Public boat launch |
| -Public building with restrooms | -Public art |
| -Lighting | -Recreational pier |
| -Pedestrian overpass | -Storm water treatment |
| -Natural trails | -Picnic shelter |
| -Historical interpretation area(s) | -Natural area |
| -Monument signage | |

The probable cost for the potential improvements is approximately \$3,600,000 and an additional \$3,000,000 for the overpass. The plan has yet to be approved by the City Council and may change before it is finally approved. There is no established timeline for making any of the proposed improvements. The park portion of the project does not currently have any funding sources and it make take many years for funding.

Staff held a meeting with all of the private marina owners on Wednesday, January 13th, 2010 to review the draft. Some ideas that were shared at the meeting were as followed:

- As a group they were opposed to the boat launch. They feel amateur boaters will cause too many issues with larger boats, too much congestion; there is a gas dock near the location, concern with wake.
- When the bridge is done and open, where are the people going to park? Concern with people parking on their property.
- Fishing shouldn't be allowed from the bridge. It is a safety concern for boaters.
- Who is going to clear out the log jams in the spring of the year.
- Concern for increased traffic on Doffing Avenue, 66th, 65th.
- Worried about who patrols the area. Think there should be a park patrol.

On Wednesday, January 27th, Staff held a neighborhood meeting sending notices to over 50 properties. The meeting was not well attended, but positive comments regarding the plan were received by those in attendance.

At this time you are asked to review, make any changes, and recommend a Master Plan to the City Council for their consideration. They will review the Master Plan on Monday, February 22nd at their Work Study Session.

Joe Harms, 4455 – 66th Street, River Heights Marina stated the property line is incorrect on the map. He is opposed to the boat launch as it is close to their launch ramp. They also have a gas dock in operation seven days a week. It would be very expensive to put a launch ramp in due to the grade.

Commissioner S. Johnson asked if the public can use their boat launch?

Mr. Harms responded they can. It's \$10.00 to launch from Monday through Thursday. It's \$15.00 on the weekends. There is also free launch in South St. Paul.

Commissioner Joyce asked if that is a one-time fee?

Mr. Harms responded it is a one-time fee. They can leave their vehicle there as well. They do charge \$5.00 to leave a vehicle there overnight and it is secure. His other concern was the patrolling of the area. He liked the fact of looking at all of the three parks as one, it will benefit the area. In regards to the property line being incorrect on the map, he did have the land surveyed in 1984 and brought a copy of the survey and showed it to some City Council members at one of their meetings.

Chair Eiden thanked him for his comments and stated they will go forward to the City Council.

Director Carlson commented that during the boating season there is a lot of excavation that would have to happen to get floatable water to the property that we own so we could even launch a boat. It is likely to fill in on a regular basis, so we would probably have to dredge it on a regular basis. The reality of this may not be a good idea. Since there is a close option here, it may be a good idea to stricken it from the plan.

Commissioner T. Johnson asked if we could have a fishing pier instead of a boat launch? Can we make it a rule that you can't fish from the bridge?

Mr. Harms stated a lot of small boats do go under the bridge. Shoreline fishing doesn't seem to interfere.

Chair Eiden asked if he gets a lot of launches from people other than your customers? If you are getting people there now, maybe if we put a launch in, maybe they would move to our free launch.

Commissioner Joyce suggested working with Mr. Harms on a launch together.

Mr. Harms responded he does get a reasonable amount because he allows vehicles to stay overnight in the lot. You can't do that in South St. Paul. He would be willing to work together on a launch.

Vice Chair Schueller said he has been at the Marina, but hasn't launched his boat there, and has gone to South St. Paul where he has launched his boat. He doesn't see the need to have one in Inver Grove Heights if we already have one nearby. He doesn't think one is necessary looking at the cost.

Commissioner Joyce asked Mr. Harms what he thought about them not putting a launch there but putting a day dock there.

Mr. Harms wasn't sure what the need for that was. He said they have spots for that already and are having discussions for expanding that right now. They are approved for having additional transient dockage put in.

Vice Chair Schueller commented it made sense to have a spot to park at this park along the shore.

Motion by Commissioner Joyce, seconded by Commissioner Silvi to approve the plan, but take the boat launch out for transient docking.

Commissioner Joyce would love to see a launch in Inver Grove Heights, but feels temporary docking makes better sense.

Vice Chair Schueller agrees with Commissioner Joyce. There's a place to launch a boat very close, either public or private. There is a need for people to access the park from the river.

Commissioner S. Johnson, Silvi, Huffman, and T. Johnson all agreed.

Chair Eiden was concerned with the property line being incorrect on the map.

Director Carlson was unconcerned with that. It's just a matter of correcting it. He will fix it. He asked that they expand on their vision of transient docking. Is it people getting out of their boats?

Chair Eiden thought it was a way for people to park their boats and get out of them for awhile.

Director Carlson stated that Mr. Harms has a vision of that as well. We don't want to compete.

Commissioner Joyce felt that maybe this could be a public/private venture?

Commissioner T. Johnson felt we should check with the City Engineer to see if we can even do dockage along there.

Director Carlson suggested that instead of having transient dockage being part of the park, we should let the arena pursue it because they already are. Perhaps in the future we can work something out between the two of us.

Commissioner Silvi suggested a friendly amendment to the motion to withdraw the transient docking.

Vice Chair Schueller was concerned that the arena was private property. How are they going to get from private property into the park? If there is something in the park, they can get there for sure. If they don't put the dockage in, they can always do the private one.

Commissioner Joyce preferred to keep his motion as it was.

Motion seconded by Vice Chair Schueller to take out the boat launch and put in transient dockage.

Ayes: (Joyce, Schueller, S. Johnson) 3
Nays: (T. Johnson, Huffman, Silvi, Eiden) 4 Motion failed.

Motion by Commissioner Silvi, seconded by Commissioner T. Johnson to take the boat launch off the plan and the City will work with the private/public sector.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0 Motion carried.

D. Establish Special Meeting for Presentation of Inver Wood Golf Course Assessment

Motion by Vice Chair Schueller, seconded by Commissioner Joyce to approve the date of February 23, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. as suggested.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS:

A. Department Happenings

Director Carlson said there was nothing new to highlight this evening, but he will stand by for questions.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner T. Johnson stated the 3rd Annual Craft and Art Show and Healthy Living Fair will take place on February 20th. 10-1 for the Health Fair and 10-2 for the Craft Fair.

Commissioner Huffman stated this was a wonderful meeting. They accomplished a lot. A lot of people along the river will be happy with what we are doing here tonight.

Commissioner Silvi said it was a lot of fun being here.

Commissioner S. Johnson had no comment.

Vice Chair Schueller stated he went to open skating and the pool with his grandchildren. He encourages people to take advantage of the facilities we have. They are enjoyable and inexpensive activities.

Commissioner Joyce commented that the Lions Club will be having Moonlite Bowling at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday at Drkulas. It is a family event.

Chair Eiden stated there is a lot of information on our website. Please take advantage of the events going on in our City. Our next meeting is on March 10th.

11. ADJOURN

Motion by Commissioner Joyce, seconded Commissioner Huffman to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0 Motion carried.