

**Inver Grove Heights  
Park and Recreation Advisory Commission  
Wednesday, March 14, 2012  
8150 Barbara Avenue  
7:00pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PRESENTATIONS – Items that don't require action.
  - A. Presentation on Summer Recreation Programs
  - B. Response Regarding Season Pass at Inver Wood Golf Course
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; April 11, 2012 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 February 8, 2012 Minutes
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. Review Revised Architectural Concept Plans for the Future Buildings at Heritage Village Park
9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS - Items that need to be discussed without any actions.
  - A. Future of our Parks Report
  - B. Department Happenings
10. COMMISSION COMMENTS – A chance for Commissioners to ask questions or make comments.
11. ADJOURN

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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.

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This document is available upon a 72-hour 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

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**City of Inver Grove Heights Minutes of the Proceedings  
Of The Park and Recreation Advisory Commission  
Wednesday, February 8, 2012**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Eiden called the February 8, 2012 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: Chris Solberg, Marty Silvi, Jim Huffman, Joe Boehmer, Stan Johnson, Desta Meyer, and Willie Krech  
Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson  
Absent: Recording Clerk Sheri Yourczek

**3. PRESENTATIONS:**

Chair Eiden mentioned a couple of changes to the Agenda this evening. He wishes to make a third announcement for a recognition award. He would also like items 8C and 9A to be discussed as one unit.

**A. Presentation on Guest Services/Memberships at the VMCC/Grove**

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson turned this item over to Bethany Adams.

Bethany Adams, Marketing and Guest Services Supervisor, discussed the following membership items:

The estimated revenue for 2011 is over \$821,712, which is a 5% increase over 2010 revenue.

We are hoping to increase the revenue as the years go by.

Demographic information:

The older adult popular seems to be growing with approximately 360 members over the age of 70. Our oldest active member is 89.

Demographics of our members: Over 75% reside in Inver Grove Heights. Some other surrounding Cities that have members here include: West St. Paul, South St. Paul, and Eagan, St. Paul, as well as a few in Minneapolis and Stillwater.

Improvements from 2011:

-Our Guest Pass Program has been in place for a couple of years. Our members are able to bring in guests over the year. This is now electronic. Instead of requesting a pass, this is now an easier process. You can use the passes on an annual basis.

-We created a fitness program recurring rate. There are a lot of members that participate in a number of fitness classes throughout the year. Previously they would have to sign up each time. This was becoming redundant, so we are now electronically taking out class dues for those wanting to continually take a class. A lot of positive feedback was received from this.

-A discounted rate was instituted for Active Military. Last spring we had one Military discounted rate. We felt that Active Military members should have a discount as well. We now have a Vet rate and an Active Military rate.

-Locker room renovations were done last year. Overall feedback was positive. We also decided to rebrand the facility with paint colors and a new enhanced logo which gives it a warmer feel. There is new signage as well.

Promotions:

-We participated in a Plum District promotion. It's where people subscribe to email deals and get a discount on some type of service we offer. We had over 500 sold. This was a very successful promotion

- We also participated in a Money Mailer direct mailer campaign. In 2011 we had over 400 coupons redeemed.
- We have over 250 people on our Parks and Recreation Facebook page. We will start to do some advertising on Facebook this year as well.
- Enhancements were made to our member newsletter that goes out via email to our members.

Coming up in 2012:

- We will begin advertising our summer membership.
- We are looking into doing some lobby renovations to try to increase the warmth in the facility. This could include bringing in some tables, chairs, and perhaps lounge furniture, as well as doing some renovations to the front desk.
- We are trying to increase our online presence for the Community Center. This would include making some website improvements, doing some new advertising, such as on Google, and more similar to Plum District. We also hope to offer online gift cards and trial guest passes.

Commissioner Solberg commented that Beth was doing a great job with her team. Keep it up.

#### 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: Wednesday, March 14, 2012. Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

C. Recognition Award. The City of Inver Grove Heights and the Architectural Firm have won an Honor Award for the rehabilitation of the Swing Bridge. There are some members of this Commission that put some hard work into that restoration. Thank you and congratulations on a job well done.

#### 5. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of January 11, 2012 Minutes

Commissioner Silvi had one item in the minutes on Page 5 where he stated he “felt the triangle piece wouldn’t be usable”. He wanted that to reflect that it wasn’t usable as a part of the golf course. It’s usable as land to be sold but not necessarily for the golf course.

**Motion by Commissioner Solberg, seconded by Commissioner Huffman, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with correction.**

Ayes: 9

Nays: 0            **Motion carried.**

#### 6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Andy Turoni, is not a resident of Inver Grove Heights, but lives in Woodbury. He had a few questions and a suggestion regarding the Golf Course. He likes the golf course a lot. He was wondering, as a frequent player of the course himself, why not have a membership option as opposed to paying every time you go? The course has been in the red for the last few years. He suggested presenting the option of a large sum up front in terms of membership. Why not try to bring that all in and offer in one place. This is a wonderful course that is near a lot of things. He did a little research on comparable sales in the area. Golf Courses in the area don’t have a lot of unlimited play options. Two courses that do are Eagle Valley in Woodbury and Mississippi Dunes in Hastings.

35 rounds at prime time rate at our course is \$39.00 right now. Its \$35.00 at Eagle Valley and Mississippi Dunes has \$34.00. If you took that same calculation, that would be about \$1300.

Commissioner Silvi stated we studied this over and over and it was decided that this type of membership wouldn't be as lucrative for the golf course as what we currently have.

Mr. Turoni felt they should reconsider this in terms of redirecting. He is going to spend \$1500 to play at courses in the area, but if you laid it out here, he would play all that at this course. From his standpoint Inver Wood gets more of his money if he pays this membership. Woodbury Patch has a link about their course turning a profit using this method. Maybe you could even do this on a trial basis.

Chair Eiden commented since he has taken the time to compile this information, he will advise Director Carlson and Mr. McMurchie to revisit this type of thing. We want as many rounds played on that course as possible. He appreciated the fact that he came here and showed concern for our golf course.

Vice Chair Schueller was on the sub-committee for the golf course. He stated we had an assessment done and that assessment had this as part of the proposal. He can't remember what the assessment came up with in reference to memberships and will look at that and get back to him on what they came up with. We are trying to get as much play at Inver Wood as we can, and with memberships that can be done. Right now people go from course to course finding the best price.

Mr. Turoni doesn't think there's much harm in seeing if this actually works. The course is well maintained. There is more of a sense of ownership if I am a member out there.

#### **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

#### **8. REGULAR AGENDA:**

##### **A. Review Non-Player Ride-Along Policy at Inver Wood Golf Course**

Al McMurchie, Golf Course Manager, gave everyone a copy of the memo that will go to the City Council. In 1992 the City had a Risk Manager employed prior to the opening to the golf course. Safety and risks were gone through and the firm recommended that we do not allow non-players on the golf course for risk reasons. Their risks were thought to be much higher and as a consequence through the years we have not strayed from that rule. Recently through the assessment that occurred, that subject was discussed in the process, and there was a formal objection made to the Mayor which prompted a review of the policy. We contacted our insurer for their opinion, and did a survey. The discussion centered upon the possibility of doing it, as there is a safety risk to it. If we elect to change the policy we should instruct the Council to do so with the discretionary immunity process.

Commissioner Silvi asked Manager McMurchie when you ask for signed waivers from the golfers, are these all players, or just those that are not playing? How does that work for younger children? Have we had any request for Caddies?

Manager McMurchie stated this is for all non-players. A parent would sign the waiver for a child. We recommend not having children younger than 12. We do get requests for Caddies, but if we are going to provide Caddies, they need to be employed. Having them on a voluntary basis would fall under this policy, or the maintaining policy.

Commissioner Krech asked how often they run into this? How many people have complained? More than one?

Manager McMurchie responded they get requests once or twice a week. They have had only one complaint. Vice Chair Schueller commented other people have issued concerns aside from this one individual. We are missing those that wish to be spectators at high school events. They are not allowed on the golf course. Most of the people who watch the high school events can do so at other schools and have experience with the game to know how it works. He believes that the policy needs to be looked at hard. Every golf course he has taken his team to allows spectators on the course expect ours. He brought emails here from high school coaches, parents, and the booster club, asking to be able to watch high school events. He fully supports the concept to have spectators at high school events with a waiver. That only includes them to be walking along and not riding in a cart.

Commissioner Silvi stated you are excluding others such as a grandparent who wants to watch a grandchild, etc. so they can't even ride a cart?

Vice Chair Schueller stated you can include the cart in this process.

Commissioner Krech thought the concern is more with having a small child with riding on a cart. You typically don't bring small kids to watch professionals play.

Manager McMurchie responded that is workable. It is important that the Council approves what we are talking about here so that there is that protection.

Commissioner Johnson asked if these waivers are effective? We have not assumed these other risks.

Manager McMurchie stated they are not always effective. There are nuisances out there based on Inver Wood's terrain.

Commissioner Silvi asked how many people have been turned away from the course because they wanted to watch an event? He can't see someone wrecking a cart to watch someone. It doesn't make sense. Just because we haven't done it doesn't mean it can't be changed.

Chair Eiden stated we have a policy here that states you can't have them out there. We have an option here that we rescind the policy and allow them out there. Allowing spectators there to watch high schoolers play seems to be a limited thing and more controllable. That Golf Course is run as a business for a number of different reasons. He would opt in favor of not letting people have opportunities in getting themselves hurt if they don't belong there. When his grandson plays, he also plays, so he has never experienced a situation like this. He does see the need for spectators to watch when high schoolers play.

Commissioner Krech suggested the high school get an insurance policy together for the golf course to allow spectators to watch at the golf course.

Manager McMurchie stated in probability if a spectator were to get hurt, the City and the High School would be listed.

Vice Chair Schueller commented if they wanted to be out there, the only thing they would have to do is get a set of golf clubs and pay the fee. Then they could follow along. We are not excluding anyone from the course, we are just not allowing them to go out there and pay a fee.

Commissioner Meyer can think of only one other course in the metro that doesn't allow spectators. A lot of them allow a fee to ride along in a car. If they are over 12 and someone wants to ride along to watch someone play golf, they can sign a waiver, or pay to watch. She doesn't see that being a problem if other courses are doing it too.

Manager McMurchie stated in speaking with other courses, they felt it was a bad practice to allow non-players on the course. There was actually a case of a non-playing child injured years ago with a resulting lawsuit. Anyone could get hurt, from ages two to 92. You have to consider everyone when you are doing a policy. The terrain is different on Inver Wood than all of these other courses. We have some severe elevation changes where a runaway golf cart can go, and that has happened.

Commissioner Meyer asked if a paying golfer was out there playing and they got hurt, and then someone was out there not playing and got hurt, what's the difference between the two?

Manager McMurchie responded the fee paying player has accepted the risk of the game. As a consequence we are on much firmer footing. That acceptance of a risk by paying a fee is the critical point. If you charge a non player to go out there and you know there is a higher risk of getting hurt, he is unsure what you can accomplish in a court case. He is not suggesting you charge a fee, but at the minimum have a waiver. Ultimately, it's the Council decision.

Commissioner Silvi commented that somewhere in the state of Minnesota, a child has drowned in a municipal pool. Does that mean we should close our pools to anyone that isn't a member of Inver Grove Heights and doesn't have a membership to the pool? This feels to be the same argument you are giving with the golf course.

Manager McMurchie said the difference is the payment of a fee.

Commissioner Silvi felt there was liability everywhere.

Commissioner Solberg commented if he goes to the Inver Grove Heights Hockey Rink as a spectator and gets hit by a hockey puck he can sue the City. If he goes to a ball field and gets hit by a ball, as a spectator he can sue the City. What is the difference if he goes out to the golf course as a spectator and gets hit by a golf ball. He can sue the City. What's the difference? It's a spectator sport, whether it's hockey, baseball, or golf.

Manager McMurchie responded it's the motorized carts that make it an issue.

Chair Eiden agreed. The golf course isn't there for a spectator sport. It's solely for users. Any spectators out there, other than a group following a team, that's not what this, is intended for. This is a business. You can have all the waivers in the world. It's a business and it can be sued. Users pay fees here and they want to have the course. The more non-players you have on the course at any one time disrupts the flow of business. There are times you have to play in a certain amount of time because of others playing before and after you. It's a whole different environment when you allow non-players on the course. He agreed with Vice Chair Schueller to allow organized spectators with a team sport. He is struggling with what the benefits are to doing this.

Commissioner Krech stated when you go to an ice arena you don't let spectators on the ice. Same goes for ball fields, etc. There is a risk for someone getting hurt.

Vice Chair Schueller stated the high school events have experienced golf spectators. They have watched events before. They never get close to the greens and are aware of where the balls are being hit. Allowing people just to go out to watch, they are going to be on the carts, on the greens, and it does get dangerous. Regarding the waiver process, he has never signed a waiver in all his years going to golf courses. He stated Commissioner Silvi has gone to his daughter's courses at high school and college for years. He asked him if he has ever had to sign a waiver?

Commissioner Silvi responded when she played during high school, an Uncle who couldn't walk the course wasn't able to watch at Inver Wood because he couldn't walk there. When she played at Hastings they were allowed to use the cart. This doesn't state handicapped riders or spectators. It states players. He has never seen anyone ride on a golf cart doing anything crazy and uses a cart every time he goes out.

Commissioner Huffman asked how many tournaments, other than high school, does Inver Wood have?

Manager McMurchie stated they have several tournaments. This really boils down to high school play.

Commissioner Boehmer commented if he had a child playing golf in high school he would want to watch them, as he does with any other sport they are in. He would like to see them change this for high school tournaments.

Commissioner Solberg asked if we amended the policy to accept spectators, are there any financial benefits?

Manager McMurchie responded no.

**Motion by Commissioner Johnson to continue with the existing policy, seconded by Commissioner Krech.**

Brian Johnson, Boys Golf Coach at Eagan High School. His team has played at Inver Wood for 20 years now. It is a fantastic facility. He appreciates playing there. When we do host events there, parents cannot go out. He has been coaching golf for 30 years. Times have changed in that. Parents are driving kids to youth tournaments for years. They have gone with kids to tournaments all over the place. They walk around the course and watch the kids play. Parents didn't do that back then, but do now. The parents that come stay out of the way, off the tees. The ones that are really good at it will go out ahead. The parents have usually played golf and have been doing it for years. He has seen someone get hit at a state tournament. Parents nowadays want to go out and watch kids play. 30 years ago they didn't. Kids play more golf as youngsters and grow with the sport. He would recommend they make a policy change to allow for spectators at high school events. Should you host a tournament here, allow spectators here. He thinks the policy for non-players at other times is probably a good idea, but with kids playing the sport of golf, they have invested a lot of money in their golf careers.

Chair Eiden stated the current motion is not about making an adjustment in letting qualified spectators out there. The motion is about keeping the policy out there as it has been.

Mr. Turoni, as a patron of the Golf Course, has some friends who don't go there that often because his friend's girlfriend, who doesn't play, can't watch and ride in the golf cart. From a business aspect, some may be willing to pay just to watch.

Vice Chair Schueller stated if this motion goes through, this won't allow parents to watch at the golf course. He doesn't know if we are sending the right message to the Council which would include allowing of spectators at high school events.

Chair Eiden stated we can talk about amending the policy. The motion here is to keep the policy or not.

Commissioner Solberg asked if a spectator wants to go along and they pay greens fees, will they be covered? They don't have to play?

Manager McMurchie responded they may be covered. There is no way to know how that plays out. If we send someone out there that we know won't play or participate that infers we also know that person has a higher level of risk attached. He is unsure how all this will play out. This is the way this issue always falls out. It's split.

Commissioner Krech suggested they make a second motion allowing spectators at events after they vote on the first motion.

**Ayes: 3 (Eiden, Krech, Johnson)**  
**Nays: 6 (Schueller, Boehmer, Huffman, Silvi, Solberg, Meyer)**

**Motion denied. Rescind the existing policy.**

**Motion by Commissioner Solberg to allow spectators out on the Golf Course for any organized golf event. Seconded by Commissioner Huffman.**

Vice Chair Schueller stated organized events needs to be very specific. He feels Manager McMurchie could do that. It would not include group events of 10 to 15 guys. It would be PGA Events, MGA Events, and High School Events. We can trust that a list be made of approved events.

He wants to re-iterate what Coach Johnson said. Inver Wood has been so supportive of high school golf. We are totally appreciative of what they do for high school golfers. Their top priority is the safety of our golfers. The issue is that we would love to have spectators.

Director Carlson clarified that the majority of you are supportive of the current policy as it is stands today, with the exception of MGA, PGA, and High School events. His suggestion to you was to basically keep the existing policy in place but suggest to the Council that spectators will be allowed at events listed. Mr. McMurchie and himself can work on that list and language and bring it to the City Council and they can do with it what they want to.

Chair Eiden stated there is a distinction between a spectator and other people on the course. We should address it as separate issues.

Commissioner Krech asked how you deal with the BEST Foundation that goes there?

Director Carlson responded those are volunteers and they are already on the course.

Manager McMurchie felt you could take the point number 1 on his memo and add an (A) to it to address the high school spectator situation. You could add a letter (B) to address other events such as MGA, etc. In the end you need the discession immunity adopted.

Director Carlson suggested the following motion. That the Park and Recreation Department supports Option 1as listed in the report with the idea that high school events be allowed to have spectators on the course. And 2, that the Manager of the course have the discession to allow other spectators at other events such as PGA Qualifiers, etc.

**Motion by Commissioner Krech that the Park and Recreation Department supports Option 1as listed in the report with the idea that high school events be allowed to have spectators on the course. And 2, that the Manager of the course have the discession to allow other spectators at other events such as PGA Qualifiers, etc. Seconded by Commissioner Huffman.**

Chair Eiden asked if he wanted the prior motions rescinded.

Director Carlson said if this one passes they will deal with it.

Commissioner Silvi felt we are going contrary to Roberts Rules of Orders. You don't make a motion, pass an item, vote on it, and then change it again later. We shouldn't be considering this at this time and should leave it where it lies.

Commissioner Krech commented you can change anything as long as it is an open meeting. He tried to do it earlier.

**Ayes: 8**

**Nays: 1 (Silvi) Motion carried.**

**B. Review 2012-13 VMCC Ice Rates**

Director Carlson stated annually we do an ice rates survey with what the current ice rates are. We survey ten arenas. We were unable to get information from one arena. The average here is based on nine arenas, not ten as suggested. We are recommending the rate for 2012/2013 winter prime time rate move from \$195 to \$200.

**Motion by Commissioner Krech to accept the change. Seconded by Commissioner Meyer.**

**Ayes: 9**

**Nays: 0      Motion carried.**

### **C. Determine Topics for Joint Meeting with City Council**

Chair Eiden stated for this topic he is going to combine two agenda items. The first item is to Determine Topics for the Joint Meeting with City Council which takes place on March 10<sup>th</sup>, the second being the Future of our Parks Report.

As you know we formed a committee last November and have met four times. The results of those meetings involved a lot of discussion about the entire parks system. One of the things that we did was something called a SWOT Analysis. We talked about Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats for our park environment. We have 28 parks, 26 miles of trails, water, the river, etc. As a result of our discussions, we want to know what the residents want. At the end of the day we need to know what we can offer them. We are challenged financially and in a lot of other ways. We don't have any benchmark or standard to measure against if this fits into our long range plan. He wants to open a discussion with the Commission that our next step forward may be to initiate an audit of the system as we have done with other items. That would mean having someone take a look so we can have a plan to go forward with. This would be a good benchmark baseline. As a committee it's a bit difficult knowing how to set the vision and how to proceed. He suggests we tell the Council that we want an audit done as the next step. We would then layout specifically the kinds of amenities we have, such as parks, trails, money, etc. that we have to consider in going forward.

Commissioner Meyer stated in the meetings we have had we have tried to define what we are going to do. It's a large scale project. It sounds like there are some other Communities that have tackled similar projects in recent history and brought someone from the outside in to assist with that process. They will know the methods to reach the Community members. She feels it is a good idea to move forward with the idea to recommend to the Council that we look at an outside party to help with the process.

Commissioner Krech commented that we did a park plan. We should have some ideas from that. He agrees that we need to look at what the people want. There is money out there for projects. There may be priorities, like do we do trails versus parks? Parking at some of the parks seems to be a problem too.

Chair Eiden knows there are a lot of places that need work, and that we are financially challenged. That's where we are struggling. We need a plan that tells us what to do. If we have an outsider with a different set of eyes, we may find it is going to come up with different priorities than we may have imagined.

Commissioner Silvi didn't understand why well-maintained parks are listed as being a weakness?

Chair Eiden responded that our Parks Maintenance staff is overwhelmed right now with the amount of parkland we want maintained, and the way we want it maintained. We want well maintained parks. If we add more development, it adds more issues. We have all sorts of issues we are trying to prioritize.

Commissioner Johnson thought it was a good idea to have a consultant come in and review what we have here. Then they write up a strategic plan for us to use over the years.

Commissioner Solberg stated the biggest problem the committee was having was on how we survey the residents. We talked about having the Consultant.

He asked Director Carlson how much he believes the Consultant would cost? What is the opportunity cost of this Consultant? Where would the funds come from?

Director Carlson responded some communities spend as much as \$100,000, or as little as \$40,000 to \$50,000. Both the Golf Course and the Community Center audits cost about \$50,000. Both the Commission and the City Council saw great value in those expenditures. Those documents continue to be used to help improve and make decisions on how those facilities are operated. We see that type of outcome with an audit of our parks system. He felt they could get a good job done for about \$50,000.

Commissioner Solberg asked what the money expended for a Consultant would be used for if we didn't use that money?

Director Carlson stated if we have a good plan, we will be able to spend the money in the right spot. If we have a poor plan, or none at all, and we spend \$50,000 somewhere, we are left wondering, was that the right spot? What happens if that was that the wrong spot? From our perspective, investing in developing a good plan, we know where we can spend as effectively and efficiently as possible. The funds could come from the Host Community Fund or the Park Acquisition and Development Fund.

Commissioner Krech thought it was a good idea to have someone come in and look at all our trails and things and have better ideas.

Commissioner Silvi stated the only problem he has is that we hire Consultants and then we take the whole plan that they have come up with and we decide we don't like this and that about the plan and we never look at doing them. He can't see spending the money on having someone get ideas that we probably won't be able to utilize anyway.

Commissioner Huffman felt it was a good idea because we got an architect on Heritage Village Park. The subcommittee listens to whatever the person has to say, and then the subcommittee and staff are in charge. We make the recommendations. They just know how to list them. He felt this was money well spent.

Commissioner Johnson is for this idea. We are thinking way ahead here. We may have ten recommendations, but someone may come in here and have two or three really good ones that we can follow. He thinks this is worth the time, money, and effort.

Commissioner Boehmer agreed with Commissioner Johnson.

Vice Chair Schueller can see the need for assessments at the Community Center and the Golf Course as they are revenue producing. Having an assessment this immense would be very difficult and expensive. He would like to think this is something that Staff and this Commission could do. He realizes how important an assessment can be to get an expert in here to get a different viewpoint. He agrees with Commissioner Silvi's point stating that we could get someone in here to give ideas, but then we don't go with some of them and they are useless. He would really like to be able to do this without an assessment. If the people on the committee think an assessment is necessary, he will go along with those on the committee because they know it better than he does. There are times you bring someone in and still have staff that knows just as much. He realizes staff is busy and has other things to do.

Commissioner Krech liked the idea of bringing someone else in who has other ideas other than staff. It's one thing to have staff make a suggestion; it's another to have someone else do it. They can come up with ten priorities and we can decide what the order is going to be.

Commissioner Meyer stated they have utilized consultants in her work that are very helpful in being able to see what has been done that has worked, and what has failed. Even though we have staff that network with other

Communities, they have other roles and responsibilities in their day to day position and this is a huge undertaking. If we can have someone come in and narrow it down to where to spend money to best serve the Community is why she is in support of this.

Chair Eiden stated the second part of this item is the joint meeting. It's difficult to set an agenda with such a short amount of time. We need to put more materials together. This could be a good topic of conversation at the joint meeting.

## **9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS:**

### **B. Department Happenings**

Director Carlson has nothing to highlight specifically.

## **10. COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

Vice Chair Schueller had no comment.

Commissioner Boehmer had no comment.

Commissioner Huffman had no comment.

Commissioner Silvi has noticed that the men's locker room at the VMCC has one handicapped bench. Just about everyone uses that bench as a shelf in the shower room. What steps do we have to go through to get more shelves or benches? He imagines the ladies room situation may be the same.

Director Carlson responded he would look into it.

Commissioner Solberg said this was a very good discussion tonight.

Commissioner Meyer had no comment.

Commissioner Johnson had no comment.

Commissioner Krech had no comment.

Chair Eiden suggested tuning in next month and watching the website to find out what is going on around town.

## **11. ADJOURN**

**Motion by Commissioner Silvi, seconded by Commissioner Huffman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.**

**Ayes: 9**

**Nays: 0            Motion carried.**

**CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS**

**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**

**Review Heritage Village Park Architectural Concepts**

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Meeting Date: March 14, 2012  
Item Type: Regular Agenda  
Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587  
Prepared by: Eric Carlson  
Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

**Fiscal/FTE Impact:**  
 None  
 Amount included in current budget  
 Budget amendment requested  
 FTE included in current complement  
 New FTE requested – N/A  
 Other

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

Review the revised architectural concepts for the future buildings at Heritage Village Park.

**SUMMARY**

In May 2011 the Council approved hiring Partners & Sirny Architects to help the City develop an architectural concept for the future buildings planned for Heritage Village Park. A committee was formed to work with the architect, and included:

- Commissioner Krech
- Commissioner Silvi
- Commissioner Meyer
- Commissioner Huffman
- City Planner Hunting
- Park Superintendent Borgwardt
- Recreation Superintendent Petersen
- Dakota County Parks Director Sullivan
- Parks & Recreation Director Carlson
- City Administrator Lynch

The purpose of the project is to create a general architectural style of the buildings so that the trailhead restroom building being constructed by Dakota County will blend in with any future buildings and structures the City builds on the site.

Generally the purpose of the process has been to develop architectural concepts so most of the discussion should be surrounding the exterior look and design of the future buildings/structures. Once an architectural design has been decided on, Dakota County Park will use the information to create plans and specifications for the Regional Trailhead Facility.

The County’s Physical Development Committee (PDC) met on January 17<sup>th</sup> to review the concepts. The PDC directed County staff to return to the February 21<sup>st</sup> PDC meeting with a refined architectural concept and cost estimate for the trailhead restroom that addresses the Committees comments. The PDC at that time will consider approval of the architectural concepts. The PDC comments were as follows:

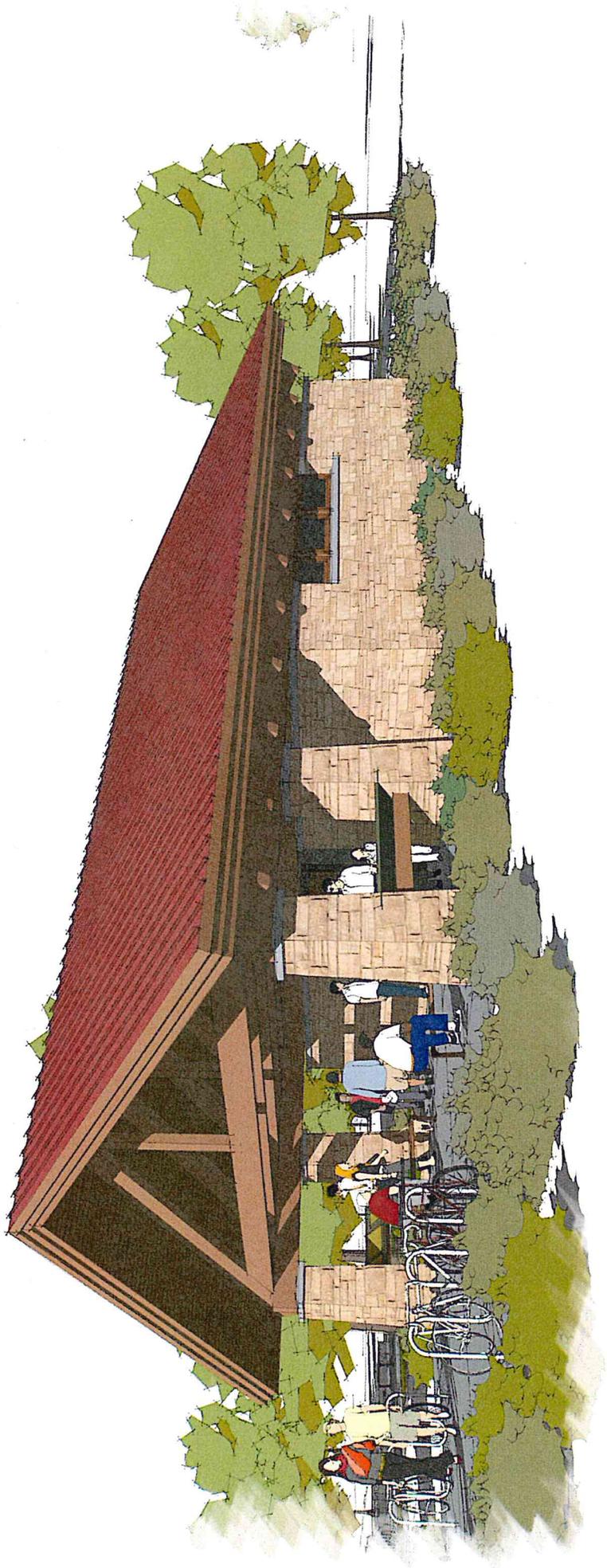
- The PDC stated that the preliminary cost estimate was higher than expected and directed staff to provide a more detailed cost estimate and opportunities to lower expenses.
- The conceptual graphics made it difficult to visualize the material selection and design components such as the steel truss in the gable. As a result the graphics

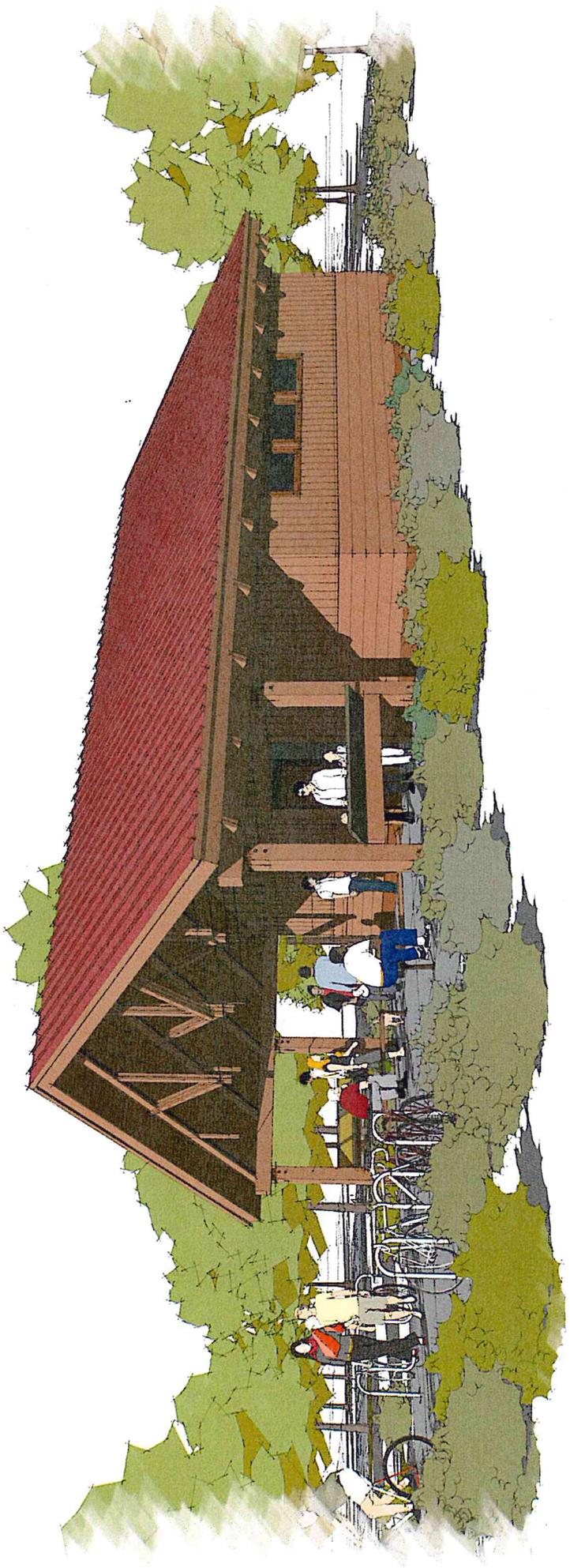
appeared utilitarian and didn't adequately convey architectural uniqueness and a strong thematic signature.

The City Council reviewed the plans and was comfortable with what they reviewed and were waiting for the County to finalize their approval. Dakota County has reviewed the revised concept plans and they are comfortable with the concepts.

The Park and Recreation Commission is encouraged to review and comment.

Additionally, Dakota County has developed an alternative site plan for the site. The revised site plan is very attractive and should really provide a nice park like setting for the trailhead facility.

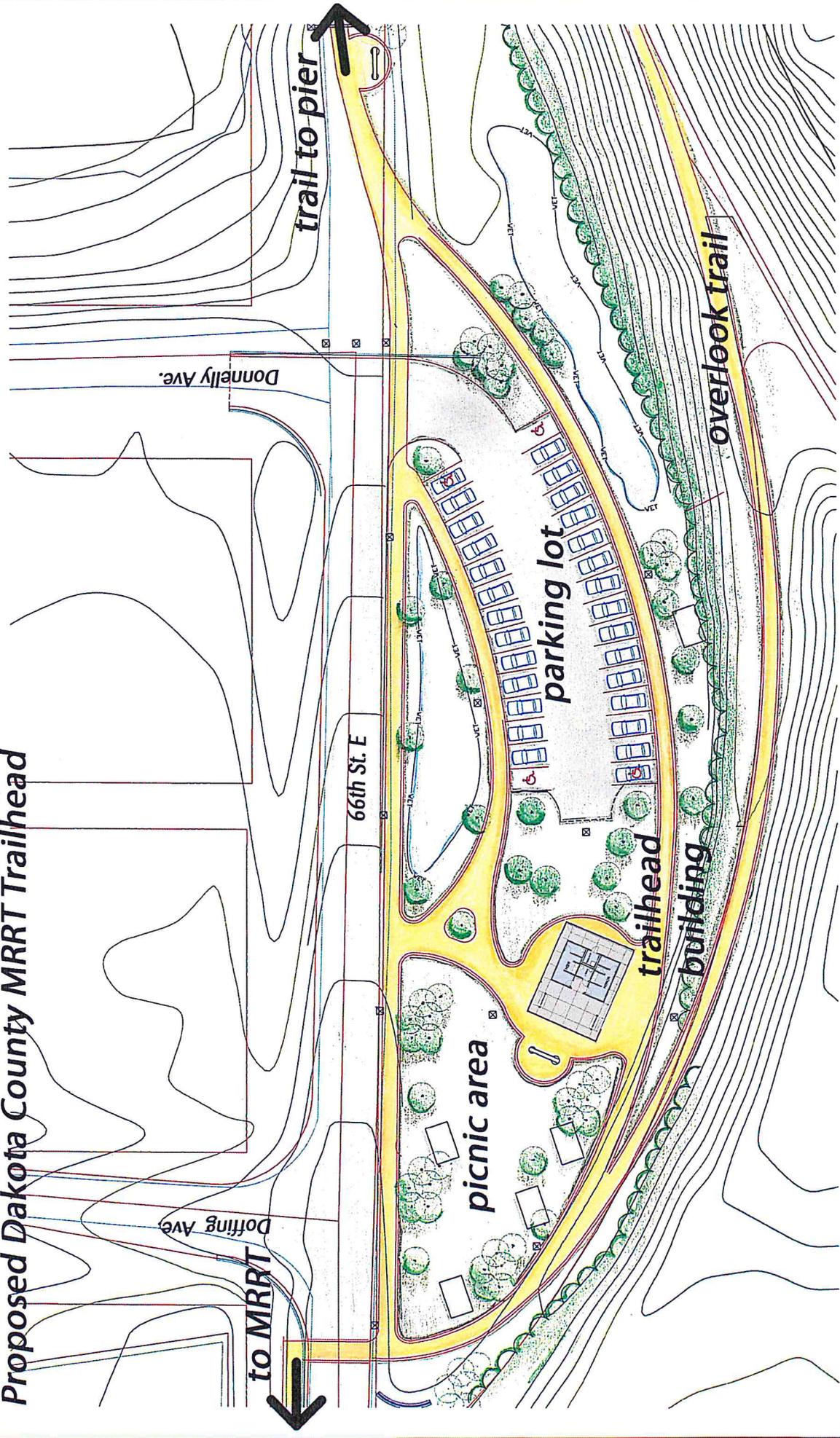






# TRAIL HEAD

# Proposed Dakota County MRRT Trailhead



to MRRT

Doffing Ave.

66th St. E.

Donnelly Ave.

trail to pier

picnic area

parking lot

trailhead

building

overlook trail

**CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS**

**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**

**Future of Our Parks Report**

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Meeting Date: March 14, 2012  
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 subcommittee will provide the full Commission with monthly updates regarding efforts to update our Comprehensive Park Plan and Development Guide.

**SUMMARY**

In November 2011 the Commission set up a sub-committee consisting of Chair Al Eiden, Commissioners Desta Meyer and Chris Solberg along with Park Superintendent Mark Borgwardt, Recreation Superintendent Tracy Petersen, and myself.

Feel free to ask appropriate questions regarding the sub-committees efforts.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Department Happenings

Meeting Date: March 14, 2012  
 Item Type: Administrative Presentations  
 Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587  
 Prepared by: Eric Carlson  
 Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

<b>Fiscal/FTE Impact:</b>	
<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**

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

**SUMMARY**

Items included:

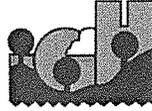
- Department Happenings Report
- Miscellaneous

Items to be discussed:

- Miscellaneous
- Commission Appreciation Event (April 19, 2012)



## Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



### **Parks**

#### **Tree Trimming**

Parks crew continues to trim trees throughout the winter dormant season. It is an opportune time to trim oaks to minimize spread of oak wilt disease and get a better view of branching pattern in crown of trees. Parks Forester Brian Swoboda has developed a six year rotational trimming schedule for trees in parks mowed areas.

#### **Picnic Tables Repair And Trash Barrel Painting**

Parks staff has been going through the annual task of repairing picnic tables and painting trash barrels at Rich Valley maintenance building as time allows. Picnic table lumber is replaced and painted and 55 gallon steel trash barrels are cleaned and painted every winter. White plastic barrels secured from Pepsi Co. will be used in some parks this summer to see how they hold up. Plastic barrels may be easier to dump into dumpster and safer for the crew to handle. It is anticipated they would also be easier on the lift-gate truck used to haul trash barrels.

#### **Winter Equipment And Building Maintenance**

With conclusion of winter skating season parks crew are repairing hockey goals and netting as needed. All the warming house buildings are being thoroughly cleaned, painted and repairs made from winter use. The flooding truck equipment is being removed and prepared for spring and summer use. New base peg anchors in concrete are being prepared in anticipation of re-doing approximately half of the city wide field's base dimensions and alignment.

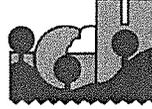
#### **Turf Installation at VMCC**

Parks staff will be assisting VMCC staff in the installation of indoor turf, purchased from Hastings, on VMCC west rink. This will allow area to be better utilized when ice comes out in early March.

## **Inver Wood Golf Course**



# Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



## Recreation

### **Disc Golf Grant**

The Recreation Division has received a \$500 grant from the Professional Disc Golf Association to implement Family Discmania Days at North Valley Disc Golf Course. The grant is intended to introduce families and youngsters to the game.

### **Minnesota Youth Soccer Association Equipment Grant**

The City has partnered with the Inver Grove Heights Heat soccer to receive a \$2,500 equipment grant to help replace soccer goals at the Rich Valley Athletic Complex.

### **Community Assessment for Older Adults**

Staff has been working with School District #199 on doing a community assessment for older adults. Survey results would provide a framework from which both parties could develop a joint strategic plan for use in future older adult programming.

### **Summer Brochure Hits Homes!**

Our summer recreation brochure will hit homes the weekend of March 10. Programs in this guide cover the months of May-August.

### **Little Spartans Softball**

In partnership with the Inver Grove Heights Softball Federation, the City will be offering girls softball for ages 4-9 this summer. This program focuses on the fundamentals of softball in a positive and supportive environment.

### **Non-School Day Events**

Our S.P.A.R.K. program will be offering a variety of fun-filled non-school day activities on April 2-5. Participants will visit the RAD Zoo, Wooddale Fun Zone and Pump It Up as well as utilize all of the Community's Center's great amenities. For more information on these great events, visit [www.funatthegrove.com](http://www.funatthegrove.com).



## Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



### **Veterans Memorial Community Center**

#### **Nordic Walking**

The fitness center staff will be offering a Nordic Walking session on Friday, April 27 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Harmon Park Reserve. Poles are available for rental.

#### **New Member Nights**

In an effort to reach out to our new fitness center members, we will be holding new member nights once a month to introduce people to our trainers, staff, equipment in a fun, non-threatening setting.

#### **New Outdoor Expo**

This new event will be held on Saturday, May 5 from 9a.m.-noon and will highlight outdoor activities such as kayaking, rock climbing, mountain biking, disc golf, archery, outdoor photography and more! This event is free and open to the public.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Commission Comments

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Meeting Date: March 14, 2012  
Item Type: Commission Presentations  
Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587  
Prepared by: Eric Carlson  
Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

- Fiscal/FTE Impact:**
- None
  - Amount included in current budget
  - Budget amendment requested
  - FTE included in current complement
  - New FTE requested – N/A
  - Other

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED**

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

**SUMMARY**

None.