

**Inver Grove Heights
Park and Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, December 12, 2012
8150 Barbara Avenue
7:00pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PRESENTATIONS – Items that don't require action.
 - A. Presentation from Parks & Recreation Staff
4. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. You can find information regarding the City of Inver Grove Heights by visiting our web site at www.invergroveheights.org
 - B. Next Meeting; January 9, 2013 Regular Meeting 7:00pm
5. CONSENT AGENDA – All items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and have been made available to the Commission at least two days prior to the meeting; the times will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Commission member or citizen so request, in which event the item will be removed from this Agenda and considered in normal sequence.
 - A. Approval of Agenda
 - B. Approval of Minutes of October 10, 2012
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. Discuss Dog Park Issue
9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS - Items that need to be discussed without any actions.
 - A. Department Happenings
 - B. Update on the Mendota/Lebanon Regional Greenway
 - C. Future of Our Parks Report – Park & Recreation System Plan
10. COMMISSION COMMENTS – A chance for Commissioners to ask questions or make comments.
11. ADJOURN

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

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

**City of Inver Grove Heights Minutes of the Proceedings
Of The Park and Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, October 10, 2012**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Eiden called the October 10, 2012 Park and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Al Eiden; Commissioners: Chris Solberg, Jim Huffman, Joe Boehmer, Willie Krech, and Mary Hapka

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson

Absent: Vice Chair Dennis Schueller; Commissioner Stan Johnson; Recording Clerk Sheri Yourczek

3. PRESENTATIONS:

None

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

www.invergroveheights.org

B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 14, 2012. Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of Minutes of September 12, 2012

Motion by Commissioner Solberg, seconded by Commissioner Hapka, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

8. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Review Concept Plan for the MRRT Trailhead Facility

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson stated as the Commission may recall we have been working on this item with the County for the last few of years. There are three phases to the project. The first is the Rock Island

Swing Bridge Pier, which was done two years ago. The second phase was the reconstruction of 66th Street along with some trail construction. The third phase will be the construction of the parking lot, trailhead facility, picnic shelter, signage, as well as some historical display-type information. We are asking the Commission to review the concept plan for the area so we can pass it along to the City Council.

Both the City and the County have focused quite a bit of public energy on the neighborhood of Concord. Concord Blvd. has been reconstructed between Cahill and 494. The Mississippi River Regional Trail has been constructed. While the Inver Grove Heights portion is near completion, the trail will be totally complete in 2015. At that time it will be a 27 mile bituminous trail from St. Paul to Hastings. We have some concepts for possible future facilities. Soil remediation has been done in the area; we are waiting approval on that. We are working on doing some historical review and documentation with the Dakota County Historical Society. This third phase of the plan includes a parking lot, restroom and water facilities, way-finding information, historical interpretation, and provision for picnicking, etc.

The conceptual plan includes benches, trashcans, drinking fountains, etc. The concept is to enhance some of the landscaping at Concord and 66th Street to create a more park-like feel. There would be a park monument sign directing people down 66th Street to the Rock Island Swing Bridge and the Trailhead facility. The sign would likely have the City Logo, County Logo, and the Natural Park Service Logo.

As we move down the roadway, with Concord on the left, river on the right, we have a 40 car parking lot planned on the south side of 66th Street. We have a restroom facility that would likely have the concept of a stone structure on the exterior with men's and women's restrooms. There would be signage there. We see some possible room for some picnic paths and a rain garden to service the run-off from the roadway and the parking lot. These trails were constructed as part of the 66th Street improvement so they are in. We would construct a set of stairs leading to the overlook. The parking lot would have an entrance and exit at two different locations for better maneuverability. We have the sign that was salvaged from the old bridge being restored and will be placed in a new location.

Commissioner Huffman asked if there was a trail at the bottom of that hill?

Director Carlson stated there is a pedestrian type sidewalk from the parking lot to connect to the swing bridge itself to keep pedestrian traffic out of the parking lot itself. The plan also contemplates putting a trail from the existing trail on 66th Street back toward heritage Village Park.

From the parking lot to the River, you have the overlook that was constructed and the set of stairs. The new feature would be a picnic shelter. That would consist of a large deck on a set of stilts that would be built at an elevation that would be above the flood level. The bottom would have to be at the same elevation that the bottom of the new bridge is at. It would be a covered shelter but no sides. There are a lot of trees in the area. Some of the property is owned by the City, some by the Marina. They have spoken to the Marina and they are open to the idea of opening the area up a bit for better view of the Marina and the river. People tend to like to watch activity at the launch, so we are opening that area up.

From a cost perspective, the entire project would cost approximately one million dollars. The County is in the process of receiving proposals for the work of a Consultant. From a funding aspect, The County received a \$450,000 grant. They have \$450,000 set aside from their own budget. The National Parks Service has \$80,000. The City has committed \$100,000 from the state bonding money that was earmarked for this site. At the end of the project the County would own the improvements and maintain the improvements in the parking lot and building. The City would own and maintain the picnic shelter, the bridge, the trails, the overlook, and signage. From a large improvement perspective, that is how we would own and operate those different facilities. Staff sees this as an interesting picnic shelter that may be available to rent with a capacity of 100, which is good for large functions and corporate events. It would be a unique shelter given its location and construction.

Commissioner Huffman asked about the construction of the picnic shelter. Would it have sides?

Director Carlson responded it would not have sides, but would have a roof. It will have railings for safety, but not closed sides.

Commissioner Huffman felt it was a long drop down. Would there be electricity hooked up there?

Director Carlson responded yes. They would plan to provide it with those types of utilities.

Commissioner Solberg asked if there was a timeline to use the money we have allotted.

Director Carlson stated we have to utilize it by June 15th of 2015. We have used some of the funds for improvements down there.

Director Carlson stated the funding that the County received is Federal funding. They either have to own the land they make improvements on, or they have to have approval from the Government that owns the land. This resolution basically says the grant use is inline and we are supportive of the County making improvements on the City property for this purpose. We would work cooperatively with the County to make these improvements and enter into a joint powers agreement on how these improvements would be constructed and maintained in the future.

Motion by Commissioner Huffman, seconded by Commissioner Boehmer, to approve the concept plan.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Huffman, seconded by Commissioner Boehmer to approve the resolution as presented.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

Commissioner Krech asked if the design of the bathrooms, shelter, etc. will look like a train depot?

Director Carlson responded the Commission and Council approved the concept for this. An architect will be hired to do the work and develop the final version of what that would look like. Those are details that you will get to weigh in on before they are constructed.

B. Review Heritage Village Park Master Plan Update

Director Carlson stated we have been working on the Park for a number of years. There was a first version of the Master Plan that was done in 2004. That plan was have the park be north of 66th Street toward the Gun Club in South St. Paul, west of Doffing, and east of the railroad tracks. The entrance would have been approximately at 63rd Street. The City approached the railroad and asked to get a crossing of the railroad there. We were denied that opportunity. We needed to re-think about how the park was laid out without that option. Around that time we did another version of the Master Plan, in that time we had been talking with Allied Waste, which is located between 66th Street and 65th Street, about acquiring their property. That version of the Master Plan included the plan to be similar to the previous plan, but as the conversations went on, it became clear that they were no longer interested in selling their property. Earlier this year we asked the Commission and the City Council to update the Master Plan another time, and that is why we are here this evening. We hired Brauer and Associates to update the Master Plan. We need to keep the park between 65th Street and the South St. Paul border and the Gun Club. The entrance can't be at 63rd Street, nor near the Allied Waste property. They developed three versions of plans. We had an Open House; we met with the Marina's, and the local business community along Concord to get input. We took that input, along with Staff's input, and we came up with a final version of the Master Plan. It contemplates a small parking lot off of 65th Street. The main entrance of the park would be off of Doffing with a building there and a large parking lot. We have an outdoor performance area in the same location. It could include a picnic shelter and playground/spray ground, as well as locations for

potential historic structures. We have a heritage garden. The Mississippi River Regional Trail goes through the park in its existing location. We have a picnic shelter in the area of what's known as Henderson pond. The improvements lay out consistently as in the past. They seem to work in function pretty well. Given all we had to consider, this plan does a pretty good job responding to what people think is best.

Commissioner Krech asked about the performance area. Is it similar to a bandshell?

Director Carlson responded on a very small scale yes. It would seat approximately 200 to 300 people from a capacity standpoint.

Commissioner Krech said that Rosemount has a unique one there and it works out well.

Director Carlson responded it would be something similar to that one.

Commissioner Huffman asked about the bandshell. Would people have anyplace to change around there? He also felt the Old Town Hall should stay where it is at, but move the Old School House down here.

Director Carlson responded anything additional detail would still need to be discussed.

Commissioner Solberg noticed the Railroad Historical Center was taken out of this plan. Since this park is based upon the railroad along the river, can't we include something of the railroad back into the plan? Be it a building or some general plan.

Director Carlson responded we could do some historical interpretation within the building and along the trails.

Commissioner Krech commented that we have parts that can be put around down there too.

Director Carlson thought the playground equipment may have a railroad theme.

Motion by Commissioner Krech to approve the concept plan as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Solberg.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

C. Consider Approval of Railing for Overlook Stairs

Parks Superintendent Mark Borgwardt stated the proposal is to construct a permanent galvanized steel railing on the stairs down by the Swing Bridge, which would go to the overlook down to the bridge. He received two quotes as follows:

Just-Rite Fence	\$16,300.00
Tree Trust	\$17,976.55

He is suggesting Just-Rite Fence for an amount not to exceed \$17,000 to construct a galvanized steel fence on the steps. It would match the steel on the overlook and bridge. Funding comes from Fund 402.

Commissioner Huffman asked how long it would take to get this done?

Superintendent Borgwardt responded it goes to the City Council on the 22nd. Then the Contractor will call on the 23rd. The contractor thought he could get it all fabricated and in by the end of the year.

Commissioner Solberg asked about Fund 402. We keep taking out of it, but not putting into it. Can this come out of the Grant we received for the park?

Director Carlson stated it could but if it did, there are a number of rules that we need to follow. Extra paperwork would be involved, which drive the cost up, therefore, they would prefer to save the bond for bigger expenditures.

Motion by Commissioner Huffman that we proceed as recommended. Seconded by Commissioner Hapka.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS:

A. Department Happenings

Director Carlson stated in the Department Happenings report, there is a memo regarding the Park and Recreation Advisory packets. Today, you get a packet mailed to you at your home. In the future, if you would like a packet printed out, we can do that, but you have to come to the Community Center to pick it up. Or you can access it online, either by printing it, or bring it to a meeting online with an I Pad or electronic device.

Commissioner Krech asked if you could fax it to somebody?

Director Carlson felt they could do that as well.

Commissioner Hapka asked if they could have copies here? That way you can look at it online at home, but have something here to access.

Director Carlson responded yes. In regards to faxing however, sometimes these packets are 70 to 100 pages long. We could email it to someone and then they could print it off. That may be easier than faxing.

Chair Eiden stated that this goes into effect January 1, 2013. Will all Councils be available that way?

Director Carlson said he will touch base and find out what their preferences are. The Planning Commission is available online. He is unsure about Environmental or Airport Commission's. The City Council's is available online.

B. Review 2013 Proposed Budgets

Director Carlson stated you have the proposed 2013 Budgets for Recreation, Parks, the Golf Course, and the Community Center.

He highlights the following items:

Recreation:

-We don't propose any changes to the programs we offer. We have had a vacant position since March. Nick Thompson's position has been vacant to date. We propose to downgrade the position to save some money. We do not feel this would change programming at all.

-We reduced our dependence on the General Fund by approximately \$38,000. This was done by making changes in the position mentioned, and looking closely at our budget. We are going to be using \$31,000 every year for the next ten years in retained earnings to help reduce our reliance on our General Fund and other sources.

-We will continue to produce one less Park and Recreation brochure every year. We produced three this year and it didn't seem to offer any negative effect.

Parks Maintenance Operating Budget:

-Has been flat since 2009.

Inver Wood Golf Course:

-Hoping to shrink the discounting in our rate system.

-Reduce our golf course maintenance by one full time position.

-This will be the first time we operate without a debt service to the construction bonds.

\$280,000 is associated with depreciation.

-We will continue to do our final phase of cart paths in 2013, which is funded by the Host Community Fund.

Community Center:

-Assuming School District makes \$100,000 payment. And the Hockey Association makes its \$14,000 a year contribution.

-We have made our adjustments for the contractor services we started last year.

-Assume Hockey Association will continue to run concession stand.

-Assume the cost recovery is proposed at 85%.

-We will continue to make some capital improvements within the facility.

Commissioner Solberg asked if the Golf Course will still be in the red?

Director Carlson responded that if depreciation didn't come into play, on a net operating income side, it will make some. Depreciation does come into play and it shows that we will not be making any money. If this was private business, you would take depreciation and write it off on taxes. The City can't do that. We need to continue to adjust the rate structure and we did make a change with Staffing.

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

Chair Al Eiden stated the subcommittee met and the consultants are hard at work. The next official event will be on the 16th, which will consist of an Open House for everyone.

Director Carlson stated the Open House will be on Tuesday, October 16th from 6:30 to 8:30 at City Hall. Please come whether you like, or do not like parks. All of your input is important.

Chair Eiden stated we are at the stage of trying to inform you of what is happening. There will be a survey on the City Website. Please feel free to go on there and complete that survey. Over 400 people have responded to the survey online. We are very appreciative of the response so far. We would like to increase that.

Director Carlson stated they would have more information at the December meeting. In January they will have more comments from the Community.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hapka had no comment.

Commissioner Boehmer had no comment.

Commissioner Huffman had no comment.

Commissioner Solberg reminded everyone of the Open House on the 16th at 6:30.

Commissioner Krech suggests looking into park programs for Halloween events for the kids.

Director Carlson responded there are all sorts of opportunities. Check out our website or the brochure. There are plenty of things going on for families, adults, and children.

Chair Eiden encourages everyone to go to the Website for programs and to complete that questionnaire.

11. ADJOURN

Motion by Commissioner Huffman, seconded by Commissioner Solberg, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Update on the City of Inver Grove Heights Dog Park Issue

Meeting Date: December 12, 2012
 Item Type: Regular Meeting
 Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
 Prepared by: Eric Carlson
 Reviewed by: Eric Carlson – Parks & Recreation

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

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The information is provided to the Park & Recreation Advisory Commission as an update regarding the City’s interest in locating a dog park in the Inver Grove Heights Park System.

SUMMARY

The City Council had requested an update on the dog park issue at the November 26th Council Work Study Session. The Council asked that the Commission look at the issue to see if there was a suitable location to construct a dog park.

A dog park is a facility set aside for dogs to exercise and play off-leash in a controlled environment under the supervision of their owners. Parks vary in accoutrements, although a typical dog park offers a 4’ to 6’ fence; separate, double-gated entry and exit points; adequate drainage; benches for humans; shade for hot days; parking close to the site; water; tools to pick up and dispose of animal waste in covered trash cans; and regular maintenance and cleaning of the grounds. Dog parks may also feature wheel-chair access, a pond for swimming; and a separate enclosure for small dogs.

The process we have used to date includes:

- October 2009 the PRAC created a dog park sub-committee and asked the sub-committee to study the dog park issue.
- The subcommittee reviewed potential locations for a dog park and recommended River Heights Park and recommended the following criteria:
 - Area approximately 5-20 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
 - Property can be easily fenced to contain dogs
- January 2010 staff met with the River Heights Park neighborhood to gauge interest in in the park as a site for potential dog park. There were approximately 28 residents from the area in attendance, all who spoke in opposition to the proposal.
- September 2010 as a part of the Heritage Village Park Master Planning process it was decided that a dog park wasn’t a suitable amenity for the future park.
- October 2010 it was the consensus of the Council to consider a dog park on the MN DOT property north of Lions Park once it becomes City property.

City staff took the liberty of reexamining city property and have developed a potential list of sites to consider:

- Talk to S. St. Paul to see if they would allow for a temporary dog park on the airport property along 70th
- Heritage Village Park could be a temporary location
- Marianna Ranch (covenant may restrict development)
- EDA property at Inver Wood on the south side of 70th just west of the parking lot (terrain may be a little rough)

In checking with the City of South St. Paul, they have 368 dog park passes sold (218 resident 59% and 150 non-resident 41%). Non-residents pay \$30 for their annual pass.

It is recommended that the Park and Recreation Commission recommend to the Council that the desired location for a dog park is Lions Park because of its central location in the City, relative separation from neighborhoods, its potential for an off-road parking lot that would serve both the dog park and the existing park, and because of the terrain.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Department Happenings

Meeting Date: December 12, 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 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.

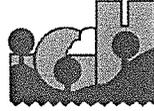
SUMMARY

Items included:

- Agenda Packets
- Department Happenings Report
- Miscellaneous



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



Parks

Turf maintenance

The record warm November weather allowed park crew to finish up many turf maintenance related tasks. The mowing season was extended to late November with warm weather. Flail mowing of trails, natural areas and around park storm ponds was also completed. Sand and compost applications on athletic fields turf was also completed along with soccer goal areas seeding and restoration. The crew was also able to do the late season triple pass aeration of athletic fields prior to topdressing and dormant compost application to get more bang for the buck next spring. The new irrigated soccer field at Skyview Park required some extra maintenance this summer and fall to prepare turf for use next fall. Soil samples were gathered from some of the higher use park sites turf areas to provide soil tests to guide next season fertility needs. Parks crew attended required 1 day training to maintain pesticide applicator license good for another 2 years.

Seasonal Equipment preparation

Parks staff has been busy storing summer equipment and preparing for winter season. Soccer goals were dismantled and stored for the season. Basketball backboards were raised at Skyview concrete rink in preparation for winter skating. South Valley and Southern Lakes ballfields were graded bowl shaped before frost sets in to prepare for winter skating. Summer complement of picnic tables and trash barrels were repaired and stored for season and winter skating sites prepared for seasonal trash volume. Skating lights were checked and repaired as needed, hockey boards repaired as needed, and building lighting, heating and plumbing repairs completed. Summer mowing equipment was repaired and stored for season. Winter plows, blowers, brooms and flooding trucks have been prepared for winter season.

Cahill Christmas decorations

Cahill Christmas decorations have been put up along Cahill Avenue. Poinsettia pole decorations, pole banners and flags make for a more festive looking corridor. The Christmas tree near 70th and well # 4 has also been decorated. Merry Christmas!

Tree Trimming Removal and Maintenance

The long warm snowless fall has allowed staff to trim many trees, perform some needed tree removal and mulch and water many trees in parks mowed turf areas. The drought has put great stress on many park trees so we watered as much as time and resources would allow.



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



Park Bituminous Trail Sweeping and Inspection

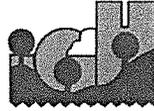
Parks crew was able to use two new street sidewalk machines to sweep clean all parks bituminous trails. During this process the crew makes note of any other maintenance needs such as tree trimming, potholes or drainage issues.

RISB Overlook Deck Stairs Railing

The stair railing from overlook deck at Rock Island Swing Bridge is scheduled to be installed Thursday December 6, weather permitting. Railing will make stairs much safer and finish off projects for the year at this evolving site. Plans are taking shape for construction of parking lot and buildings at RISB scheduled for construction next spring. Friends of Mississippi River should have a natural restoration plan for this area completed by year end for city's review.



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



Recreation

Holiday on Main Street

This year's event will take place on Saturday, December 15 from 2-5 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Community Center, National Guard Gymnasium. The event will include: visits with Santa, music by Brio Brass, reindeer sleigh rides, free food and beverage, toy drawing, free games, crazy hair, face painting, balloon artist, caricaturist, official lighting of the tree and more.

There will also be free holiday lights trolley tours beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the Parks and Recreation Office, Grove Guest Services and ACE Hardware. Trolley rides are on Saturday, December 15 and run at 6:30 p.m., 7:10 p.m., 7:50p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 9:10 p.m. and depart/return from The Grove Aquatic & Fitness Center entrance.

New Youth Rugby Clinic

Rugby is a cool combination of soccer and football. An introductory clinic will be offered in late April to introduce youth in Grade K-5 to the sport. For more information visit www.invergroveheights.org.

Skyview Park Fields

Staff has been working with local athletic user groups on starting to identify group needs, scheduling, etc. in preparation for use of the fields beginning in fall 2013. The Simley Youth Tackle Football Program and Heat Soccer Association will begin using the facility at this time.

Girls Lacrosse

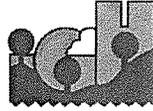
With the growing popularity of lacrosse, the recreation division will be expanding our lacrosse to include girl's leagues this spring and summer for girls in Grade 5-7.

Outdoor Ice Rinks

Outdoor ice rinks/warming houses are tentatively scheduled to be open beginning Dec. 19-February 18. Warming houses will be open at Oakwood, Skyview and Groveland Parks. Unattended pleasure rinks will be at South Valley and Southern Lakes Parks. For specific hours of operation, visit www.invergroveheights.org.



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



Veterans Memorial Community Center

Ring in the New Year

Join us for our family New Year's Eve Party on Saturday, December 31 from noon-3:30 p.m. Families can participate in swimming, skating, music, bingo, crafts and more. The cost is \$20 per family (up to 4 people). Pre-registration is not required.

Group Cycle Greet the Grove!

Group Cycle classes are finally here! Eighteen bikes were purchased this summer and classes officially got underway in November. In addition to the traditional cycle classes, other fitness classes utilizing the bikes will begin to be offered. Classes are offered during the daytime, evenings and weekend time slots.

Learn to Skate Open House

Come to the rink and try skating, meet the Learn to Skate instructors and get class questions answered! This open house will be held on Tuesday, January 8 from 6-7:30.m. The winter session of classes officially begins January 15.

Busy Ice and More!

December and January will be very busy months at the Community Center with 15 girls and boys hockey games, 8 swim meets and 4 youth hockey tournaments.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Update on Mendota/Lebanon Hills Regional Greenway

Meeting Date: December 12, 2012
 Item Type: Work Study Session
 Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
 Prepared by: Eric Carlson
 Reviewed by:

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

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

This item is for informational purposes, no action is required at this time.

SUMMARY

Dakota County kicked off their master planning process for the Mendota/Lebanon Hills Greenway in September. The County has established a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) which will help the County determine the most desired/acceptable route for the greenway. Scott Thureen, Allan Hunting, and Eric Carlson are representing the City on the TAG. Dakota County expects the process to take until June 2013. The City of Inver Grove Heights has included this greenway in our approved Parks and Trails Master Plan with is a part of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

There are several alternative alignment possibilities for the Mendota to Lebanon Hills Regional Greenway. Each major alternative has been evaluated against 9 criteria based on greenway performance goals outlined in the 2010 Dakota County Greenway Guidebook and feasibility.

The Criteria are:

1. Follows natural resources and is away from roads
2. Opportunities for natural resource corridors, habitat and water quality enhancements
3. Access
4. User experience
5. Grade separated crossings
6. Distance between destinations
7. Current ownership
8. Timing and availability of lands
9. Natural resource constraints

Dakota County will hold an open house at the Lebanon Park Nature Center to give residents, businesses, and property owners an opportunity to review options for the Regional Trail planned between Mendota and Lebanon Hills Park. A portion of the trail is proposed to be routed through Inver Grove Heights. The Open House will be held from 6:00 – 8:00pm on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at the Lebanon Hills Nature Center.

Dakota County staff and HKGI will be making contact with property owners over the next several weeks to gain feedback on how the greenway may impact/benefit their future development plans.

At this time the only City concern about the plan is where/how it crosses Interstate 494. We don't want the "plan" to impact the future 494/Argenta interchange in any way. The plan is a long range plan and is funded by Dakota County. Construction, maintenance, and future replacement of the improvements will be the responsibility of Dakota County.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Future of Our Parks Report

Meeting Date: December 12, 2012
Item Type: Administrative 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

The subcommittee will provide the full Commission with monthly updates regarding efforts to update our Comprehensive Park Plan and Development Guide.

SUMMARY

The Commission set up a sub-committee consisting of Chair Al Eiden, Commissioners Mary Hapka and Chris Solberg along with Park Superintendent Mark Borgwardt, Recreation Superintendent Tracy Petersen, and myself.

We will provide the entire commission with an update each month.

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

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Commission Comments

Meeting Date: December 12, 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.