

**Inver Grove Heights
Park and Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, August 14, 2013
8150 Barbara Avenue
7:00pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PRESENTATIONS – Items that don't require action.
 - A. Park & Recreation Intern – Brad Yetzer
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; September 11, 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 items 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 July 10, 2013
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. ADA Accessibility at Groveland Park
9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS - Items that need to be discussed without any actions.
 - A. Department Happenings
 - B. Discussion on Adopt-A-Park Program
 - 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, July 10, 2013**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Eiden called the July 10, 2013 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: Deb Tix, Joe Boehmer, Mary Hapka, Willie Krech, and Mark Freer

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson

Absent: Commissioners Stan Johnson and Jim Huffman
Recording Clerk Sheri Yourczek

3. PRESENTATIONS:

Chair Eiden stated Agenda Item B on the Agenda this evening will be replaced by a presentation by the Girl Scouts.

A. Presentation on the VMCC/Grove Fitness Programs – Amy Crary

Fitness Coordinator Amy Crary updated everyone on the following:

The bad weather has been profitable for the Fitness Center and fitness programs. We are up \$16,000 in membership revenue and \$17,000 in admissions.

*Fitness Center

- Continually used year round. One of the things we attribute the summer memberships to, is that we have a lot of high school and college kids working on their summer programs for the fall sports.

-We updated the fitness equipment as budgeted in May. We are working on our budgeted strength equipment for fall. We have display board in the lobby with what we have proposed to do.

-We have a very diverse population in the Fitness Center. In the mornings we cater mostly to the active older adults. In the evenings, working people are using the cardio and free weight area. We are looking at meeting both needs and are looking at pieces that will include both groups. We hope to implement that this fall.

-Group Fitness Classes:

-Silver Sneakers Program continues to flourish. Payments from insurance companies average \$6,000 a month. We currently have 800 Silver Sneakers members. Our classes range in size from 30 to 60 people.

-Other popular classes include Zumba, Kick Boxing, and then a new class called Pilates Barre. That involves a three-part workout that includes resistance toning for your arms, a ballet barre or a chair session and the third part is Pilates-based core exercise for your abs and back. It's a great program that can span all the generations.

-In November we purchased group cycle bikes. We ran about eight classes during the winter months. Now we are running four classes as it is nice outside and people would rather bike outside than in. We will continue offering that in fall. In March we offer open cycle. You can use our cycles as you use our equipment in the fitness center. It gives people a little more flexibility as to when you get in there.

- Fitness Classes are going well. We have seen a bigger increase in lessons versus training. Most popular is Boot Camp. Yoga has also been very popular, so we started offering prenatal yoga and parent/child yoga classes as well. In the fall, we will begin offering yoga-based support groups for cancer, mental illness, or overeating. That will be focusing more on meditation and support.
- We continue working with our youth, featuring an I Am So Fit Class which is a teen boot camp for those ages 10 to 14. For the summer, we offered our Passport to Fitness Program. We had about 40 youth ages 10 to 14 participate. Normally if you are under 15 you need to be with a parent or another adult to use the fitness center, but during the summer from 10:00 to 12:00 there is a fitness attendant on staff to monitor the youth. They are also allowed to go into the pool.
- Personal Training is still going strong. There has been an increase for requests for group training for sports teams. We have also had requests for individualized one on one training for youths that are overweight or trying to get ready for a team. We still utilize the pool for aqua training, which is also great for those recovering from a shoulder or hip surgery.
- Special Programs coming up in the fall:
 - Women's Expo in conjunction with the Arts Fair on October 12th.
 - On November 3rd we will have the Taking Care of You Event, which targets the hunting widows. It's a spa day. Someone will come in to do facials, massage, hand treatments, and we will provide a healthy breakfast. They can also take some fitness classes.
 - New this year we will have a Black Friday Boot Camp. This is a 90 minute workout challenge for the day after Thanksgiving.
 - We are partnering monthly with Health East to give blood pressure and blood glucose checks. This takes place on the 3rd Friday of the month from 9:00 to 10:30. About 10 to 15 people take advantage of that.

Chair Eiden stated it is good to hear the programs are increasing. It's wonderful to hear the broadening scope of the programs you are offering. He asked if they have run into a point that space has prevented someone from participating?

Coordinator Crary responded that usually if it's a group fitness class at max capacity, we will try to offer another one at another time. We currently occupy three spaces in the Community Center now. We have the main studio, we have the TRX/Kettle bell area, and now we have the cycle room. We do sometimes overflow into one of the Community Rooms or the Gym. Space is tight, but we are not turning people away. The new equipment will be smaller and probably offer us more room. Being full is not a bad problem.

Commissioner Hapka thanked Coordinator Crary for the job they do over there. The Staff is always helpful. It's great to see that you are making adjustments and changes.

Chair Eiden commented that he caught Coordinator Crary walking from her office over here tonight. If it were him, he would have probably used a car to get here. He wanted to thank her for the job she is doing and the programs that are improving.

B. Girl Scouts Presentation

Recreation Superintendent Tracy Petersen introduced Girl Scout Group 55353 who would like to discuss doing a Silver Award Project at South Valley Park.

Danielle and Caitlyn from Troop 55353, stated their Silver Award Project is about Endangered Species in Minnesota. They would like to make boxes along the trail that include facts about endangered species and also include a paw print of the animals. The stones they are talking about are flat, and you would have a box, Plexiglas, and PVC Pipes. They have six animals in mind for the project.

Commissioner Krech asked if the girls would have paw prints set in concrete?

Danielle responded that there are flat rocks that we can put them by. We are planning on putting the PVC pipes into the ground.

Chair Eiden asked how many markers do you plan on installing?

Danielle responded some by the picnic area and they were planning on putting one by Well 5.

Commissioner Freer stated you are speaking about the sitting rocks that are along the trail correct? He asked if they have looked into the vandalism issue?

Danielle responded they only found one rock along the trail that had vandalism on it. They can check on that once a month by just walking down the trail.

Commissioner Krech asked Director Carlson if they were okay with them doing this?

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson responded that this is much like the murals we had done in the Arbor Pointe Trail System. Our Staff worked closely with the Girl Scouts to make that project possible. We would help the girls and give advice on any issues, as well as safety and vandalism. Based on how they describe the project and their vision, he doesn't see why we can go ahead with this project.

Chair Eiden asked how many Scouts would be involved in the project?

Danielle responded that they have three girls in their group that would be doing this project. The other girl was unable to attend the meeting tonight.

Chair Eiden asked when they wanted to start and how long would it take to get done?

Danielle responded they are planning on starting it and finishing it before school starts.

Motion by Commissioner Krech, seconded by Commissioner Freer, to approve the project.

Aye: 7

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

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, August 14, 2013. Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of Minutes of June 12, 2013

Motion by Vice Chair Schueller, seconded by Commissioner Krech, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Aye: 7

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Consider Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair Eiden stated this was tabled at the last meeting. We need to fill the Chair and the Vice Chair positions. He will begin with the position of the Chair. If there are multiple names, they will continue by secret ballot.

Motion by Commissioner Krech to nominate Al Eiden as the Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission. He has been doing a great job the last few years. Seconded by Commissioner Hapka.

Aye: 7

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

Chair Eiden opened the floor to nominations for Vice Chair.

Motion by Commissioner Krech to nominate Dennis Schueller as Vice Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Freer.

Aye: 7

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

8. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Consider Park Dedication Requirements for Beverly Anderson – Case NO 13-25W

Director Carlson stated we have two this evening. The first is for Beverly Anderson, Case No. 13-25W. It's a lot split. Parcel is one acre in size. There are no parks in the area or trail needs. Cash Dedication is in the total of \$8,022.

Motion by Commissioner Krech, seconded by Commissioner Tix, to approve as presented.

Aye: 7

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

B. Consider Park Dedication Requirements for IGH Investments LLC – Case NO 13-23PUD

Director Carlson stated this is the eighth addition for Argenta Hills. This is the single family lots by the new Target store. It is for 47 lots, there is no parkland or trails involved. Cash Dedication is in the amount of \$188,517.

Motion by Commissioner Krech, seconded by Commissioner Boehmer, to approve as presented.

Aye: 7

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

C. Consider Approval of Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway Master Plan

Director Carlson stated Dakota County has been working on a Greenway Master Plan for the Greenway they are referring to as the Mendota-Lebanon Hills Greenway. It begins in Mendota Heights around Dodd Road. It comes into Inver Grove around 494 through mostly undeveloped land, then it enters the City of Eagan, then it ends at Lebanon Hills Regional Park. The Greenway is 8 ½ miles. The trail would include trailhead facilities and crossings at specified areas. There is the potential for a trailhead in Inver Grove Heights which may be a park at one day. It could be much like the trail head facility at the Rock Island Swing Bridge.

Commissioner Krech asked about Argenta Trail. Weren't they putting a greenway there?

Director Carlson responded we have City trails planned to connect through this entire area. We want to connect those to the Greenway.

The Master Plan's purpose is to provide future guidance for development so they have a plan in place for funding. They want to be able to integrate recreation, transportation, natural resource management, and water quality improvement, as part of the system they plan on building.

Some of the design features they are talking about include:

- Follow natural resources and have those be natural areas.
- Frequent access points at full service trail heads with restrooms, picnic areas with water, and vehicle parking every 3 to 5 miles along the Greenway. These are connected with City Trails, at least in our case; those are yet to be built.
- Trail would be paved and plowed during the winter months.
- Crossings at major roads.
- Interpretation along the trail as well as way finding signs to show where they are at and which direction they may want to get to.
- All abilities will have access.
- Utilization of sustainable practices and lighting.

Those are some of the goals that Dakota County has. The County has an overall Greenway Master Plan for the County. This is just one Greenway within the County system. It will take 10 to 15 years to develop. The Mississippi River Regional Trail has been in the works for a number of years. These efforts help provide guidance and vision for the future so they can be accomplished when the time is right. The City Council will be getting a presentation on August 5th. The Council will be asked to support it on August 12th.

Commissioner Krech asked when they cross the bridge across 494, is that land already purchased? It looks like they are going to come across the highway now.

Director Carlson responded those specific decisions have not been made yet.

Vice Chair Schueller asked if the responsibilities of maintenance of these trails rely solely on the County?

Director Carlson responded that yes, it does, as well as construction, maintenance, and operating it. They may ask the City to do some of it, and in the event of that a Joint Powers Agreement will be necessary. We may have to mow. If that is the case we would recommend that we be reimbursed for the time it takes the Staff to do that. This is a regional facility, not a City park.

Commissioner Freer asked if it will be multi-use? For horses, anything else? etc?

Director Carlson responded it is intended to be a paved trail. For bikers, walkers, strollers, etc. It is planned to be plowed in the winter so it's open year round. As far as he knows, it is not intended for horses, or anything powered, such as ATV's, or motorized vehicles of any sort. Unless it is for disabilities.

Commissioner Freer asked if there was any discussion on having a side path where mountain bikers and runners can run alongside the paved path? It is nice to have that side piece. Was he a part of the process here?

Director Carlson responded yes he was part of the process. As far as the path, the County envisions having a 30 to 100 foot wide greenway area. There would be a 10 to 12 foot paved trail. There shouldn't be an issue alongside the trail. He can't see the County building a mountain bike system as part of the greenway. That is a totally different use.

Commissioner Krech commented on the Mississippi River Regional Trail. When the County cuts the trail, they cut two feet on each side. That leaves three feet along the side uncut. Then the City has to come and do that. Why can't the County cut out to the curb?

Director Carlson responded this is the first summer that the County is operating that trail. It is just a matter of time before those issues get ironed out.

Motion by Commissioner Krech, seconded by Vice Chair Schueller, that we accept the proposed plan as issued.

Aye: 7

Nay: 0 **Motion carried.**

9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS:

A. Department Happenings

Director Carlson had nothing to highlight, but will answer any questions the Commissioners may have.

Commissioner Krech asked a question about the Emerald Ash Borer. If the Ash trees are healthy and you can spray them and treat them, why are you cutting them all down?

Director Carlson stated a few years ago the City adopted a plan. During development we looked into how to deal with the Emerald Ash Borer infestation. We decided against chemical injections as they can be expensive. It is a continuous process, and the advice we received at that point and time was that in the long run you would be better off replacing an Ash tree versus treating. When you are talking about the number of Ash trees on public property, the advice we received was to do a removal/replacement plan. That was more cost effective.

Vice Chair Schueller had a comment about the Junior Golf Camp. He was wondering if we could have a survey of the participants that would ask them if they would have any ideas on how the camp could be enhanced since it was new. Then we can get an idea what changes can be made. He sees that the high school golf coaches and some of the Eagan coaches may be involved that they could possibly have some ideas as to how that may be run as well. He knows that it would be nice to see the Championship Course used more than just the Executive Course. He would like to know what they feel about the camp and what they see for the future. He would like to see a report come back to them to see what ideas they had.

Vice Chair Schueller commented regarding forestry. As he has walked through some of the parks and trails he noticed alot of downed trees as a result of some of the winds we have had. There is a lot of dead wood that you see, and that could be dangerous. He was concerned that we have to keep up with cleaning out the brush and dead trees that keep falling.

Director Carlson stated that if you are seeing a tree that looks to be diseased or dangerous, please let our Park Maintenance Staff know and we will go out and check it out. Our Staff is very proactive, there is a lot of ground to cover, if anyone notices something, please let the Staff know so we can get out there and access the situation and see if it is safe.

Vice Chair Schueller commented some of the parks have garbage such as cans, bottles, etc. There could be a citizens group in the Community to do some work too. They could be part of the helping to get some of this done; this could help save some money for maintenance.

Director Carlson agreed that it would be helpful to have someone pick up in the parks. It would really help us out. We don't have an abundance of help for our parks, but since there are a lot of people using the parks, it would be great for them to help out and deposit trash in an acceptable trash container.

Vice Chair Schueller felt they could work in conjunction with Staff on a planned park cleanup plan on some specific day. Where he lives near Simley Park, it's not a very used area, but it would be great to have a planned day where the parks would have conjunction of the Staff there they could give direction to haul it away. Maybe it could be a more organized thing. You could pick other days for other parks, or even other years. He felt if the area near his home could be cleaned out it would look great. We have days that we have cleanup of the City, but if we had cleanup of the parks it would make some sense.

Director Carlson responded that we do have an Adopt a Park program that does what you just described. We have groups, residents, and Cub Scout groups, that adopt a park. They are required to run through the parks a few times during the summer to clean up and clean out park areas and put the trash that they collect in an area where our Park Maintenance comes by and picks up the trash collected. That is a huge help. They do a great Community Service for our Parks system. We encourage people that live around all parks to consider becoming Adopt A Park participants. At this time he was unsure if Simley Island has been adopted or not, but if it hasn't, if you or someone else would like to, we would be happy to help that process along. We provide trash bags and gloves.

Chair Eiden asked if we have a methodology of when those groups do that? There may be some in the public that are not aware of these groups going on. Is there a way to look that information up?

Director Carlson responded that Tracy Petersen, our Recreation Superintendent, runs that project. Maybe she could come to the next meeting to explain the program. We can talk about the groups that have adopted parks, parks that are adopted, and those that are not.

Chair Eiden asked to have that placed on the schedule please.

Commissioner Hapka agreed that it was a great idea. In her neighborhood they have a clean-up day. If they had something like this it could be connected to some other event, like Night to Unite, etc.

Vice Chair Schueller commented he is talking about a little bit more work than picking up cans and bottles. He is talking about people with chainsaws cutting down deadwood, and buck brush, cleaning it out so it's a nice usable park. Maybe we could have them pull some of the dead wood out of there. Some parks would be more of a project than maybe we are doing already.

Commissioner Krech stated the Boy Scouts have leaders with them that could use chainsaws. The City also has the Tree Trust group that also does that kind of thing.

Director Carlson commented they do have Sentence to Serve help out, and we do have a Tree Trust Crew that works the parks in the summer months. We will bring this topic back at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Freer asked about trail maintenance work. Is there a plan out there that the public can see what's going to get done, what's scheduled?

Director Carlson responded there isn't a plan, but there is work under development. Once that is available we can make sure that is available to the public.

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

Chair Eiden stated they had a work session meeting with the City Council. We spent an hour and a half with the Council. Several Commissioner's were in attendance as well as some of the Park Champions. He stated that Sarah and Mike did a wonderful job with the objectives of the Park Champions and this whole project. He believes that the Council is skeptical from a financial point of view, but were very positive and gave the direction to pursue this further.

Commissioner Hapka felt it was a good sized group. Several Champions were there and Mike and Sarah did an excellent job with their presentation. She felt it was a good opening discussion with the Council. We let them know we are getting feedback from the residents.

Chair Eiden was pleased that the Council understood the issues. Rather than being antagonistic, they offered suggestions. The biggest issue is the financial aspect. While there was comment and skepticism, the general tone from Council Members was very positive.

Vice Chair Schueller commented, as he listened that night, that he felt like the Council felt we were responsible for this. There is improper funding for maintenance for parks. That responsibility does not lie with the citizens who came up with the report, and it doesn't rely on this Commission. He doesn't know where the responsibility to maintain the parks lies, but whoever didn't have proper funds for the maintenance of the parks, they need to be the ones to come up with the solution to the problem. He felt the Council does the approval of budgets, they didn't budget enough money for maintenance of the parks. He felt like they were telling us we needed to figure this out, but they were the ones that passed the budget. He doesn't see this as a way to treat the people who did the work to come to them with this report. They got off task at times and were not dealing with the suggestions that were brought to them.

Commissioner Hapka agreed that Vice Chair Schueller brought up a good point in that funding is an issue. There isn't enough money in the budget to maintain what we have. She didn't feel they addressed that issue. The budget doesn't reflect what is needed to maintain what we have.

Vice Chair Schueller commented that we didn't create this problem, but felt like we are being asked to find a solution. We are dealing with a lacking budget. Who budgeted that inadequately? They need to fix that problem. He doesn't think it is our responsibility with the budgeting. It's being put back on us to take care of the problem.

Chair Eiden didn't look at it that way. Everyone knows we are underfunded for everything here and we can't go forward. He felt it was more positive than he had expected. While he does agree, we were told to take care of this. There is an issue where Parks fall in the scheme of things. For anyone watching that wants to get involved with the Park system, there will be another Champions meeting next Wednesday night at 6:30.

Director Carlson stated the meeting will be at the Community Center at 6:30. Notices will be up as to where the meeting will be held.

Commissioner Freer asked if they are going back to the Champion's Group and re-tool, or will the Commission take it up as an agenda item?

Director Carlson stated one of the things they heard the Council speak of was how the replacement budget looked like under different cost scenarios. Over the next several weeks the Champions will propose four different scenarios where you can look at a map and see what we could do under different costs. Then people can say that they would be willing to spend more to have certain things. We need people to understand the ramifications of those decisions. We are ahead of the curve in a sense that things are not falling apart. This is a planning process that we can see that the parks have been planned for and discussed. Everyone would understand and support that so we can move the system forward so everyone knows what the future of the system is going to be. We want everyone to be educated about our parks.

Chair Eiden stated the Council was aware that the process outcome would probably be good and bad. Having the Champions out there allows us to mentor those folks. This Commission will have the task of convincing the Council of doing something. It is better to have people understand what is going on within the City and that is what this group is doing. They have said they have learned a lot about the issues with parks and what it takes. This is going to be a huge educational process to have a positive outcome at the end. He would hope that we will monitor them and let them develop.

Commissioner Freer felt the Commission should have a heavy hand in the process. The budget is going to weigh on a lot of our decisions.

Chair Eiden stated we have are not talking about the maintenance or the programs, it's the physical assets that we have. When you have 26 miles of paved trails that you have to maintain. The other part is capital replacement. For that alone, before maintenance, we need twice as much money. We need \$500,000 a year to maintain and replace assets. If we have to do it at a cost of \$200,000, it won't be maintained at a level that you may want it to be. He hopes we deal with these components.

Vice Chair Schueller stated it seemed funds for maintenance was going back to the people and asking for more money for a referendum. He doesn't know if you can get citizens excited about that. It's difficult to get people to work that hard to ask for more money for parks. Perhaps we need to go to them and show them we need a referendum to keep up what we have.

Chair Eiden stated we are not at how we are funding this stuff yet. We are talking about what we want first, and then we need to go back and mention where we are headed.

Commissioner Krech stated if you don't have \$300,000 more in the budget for these things, shelters that need repair will be torn down and not replaced. The playground equipment will go away and won't be put back. We need to show the Council what it is like over a period of years. To cut grass and keep things the way they are, that's a different budget. You could have trails that won't be re-blacktopped because we don't have the money.

Vice Chair Schueller understands that there is a job to be done here. We went there with a few funding ideas, but he felt they were only interested in the referendum.

Commissioner Hapka mentioned that the City of Edina has a franchise fee. Nobody likes added fees, but the thing she liked about that fee, is it is a long term funding system. A referendum goes to the residents and they need to vote it in. She would like the Council to look at the franchise fee. It seems to be working for Edina. A referendum in 15 years, that money is gone.

Commissioner Krech felt we needed to go to the public and show them one option of the franchise fee or a referendum. He feels that is something we need to do for the Council, since they are looking for direction from us.

Chair Eiden agreed that they are looking to us for that. A few years ago this Commission took the lead on some fairly large projects. The Commission and subcommittees did everything and took that to the Council. We have

Rich Valley Park; we have the Veteran's Memorial Center. A lot of things happened in this Community because of this Commission.

Commissioner Tix commented that we are either going to get funded through a referendum and have the citizens on our side, or they are going to get upset to the point that now we don't have enough parks, and it could end up getting to the Council. We need to get citizens on our side to begin with. The Park Champions are great on that point.

Chair Eiden stated we will have another discussion next Wednesday night. Anyone interested is more than welcome to attend. He thanked everyone that helped come up with a workable solution in the end.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Tix had no comment.

Commissioner Krech thanked Chair Eiden and Vice Chair Schueller for the positions they have taken on the Commission again. It's an important job, and we need someone that sticks with us to get this done. He appreciates all that everyone done. He doesn't think the funding will be easy to get done. It will take a lot of work by a lot of committees to get this done. He is not a referendum guy anymore. They have tried twice and failed. It's kind of a hassle. He felt a franchise fee is the way to go.

Vice Chair Schueller noticed in the local paper, they ranked different things in the Community. One of the rankings was for Community Centers and Inver Grove Heights was number one in the area the paper covers. He asked Director Carlson about the Twins Clinic. Is there an update on what that entails?

Director Carlson responded he does not have any details on the Twins Clinic. He can get the details and get back to them.

Commissioner Freer thanked everyone for taking the positions and the added responsibilities that come with them.

Commissioner Hapka thanked the Commissioners for taking their positions and all the hard work they have done throughout the years. She encourages everyone to attend the Park Champions meeting next week. We are trying to look for a plan for the future of our parks system. We don't want to increase our parks system if we can't pay for it. Money Magazine stated some of the reasons people buy real estate in a Community is for schools and jobs, third was for parks and trail systems. People see a place that is well taken care of, they are going to want to buy a piece of property. That type of thing affects your property and your Community.

Commissioner Boehmer also thanked Chair Eiden and Vice Chair Schueller for taking on their positions again. They are doing a great job.

Chair Eiden commented that we appreciate the compliments of taking the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. The real issues are handled by the members sitting here. He has an easy time running meetings because this is a really good group to work with. Everyone is more than welcome to stop down and see the meetings. Please watch the website and papers; there is a lot going on in this Community.

11. ADJOURN

Motion by Commissioner Freer, seconded by Commissioner Hapka, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Aye: 7

Nay: 0

Motion carried.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

ADA Accessibility at Groveland Park

Meeting Date: August 14, 2013
 Item Type: New Agenda
 Contact: Mark Borgwardt-651-450-2581
 Prepared by: Mark Borgwardt
 Reviewed by: Eric Carlson

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

Approve awarding contract to Pine Bend Paving not to exceed \$19,650 for construction of bituminous trails at Groveland Park to provide ADA access, as required by new Federal ADA law, to newly installed playground, existing permanent park building, tennis court, basketball court, hockey rink and hockey lighting controls.

SUMMARY

Construction of new playground at Groveland Park is scheduled for August. New Federal ADA law requires ADA access to all park features and amenities. Two quotes were received to provide bituminous trails:

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Pine Bend Paving Inc. | \$16,650.00 |
| Ace Blacktop Inc. | \$16,987.13 |

Recommend hiring Pine Bend Paving Inc. for \$16,650.00 to pave ADA accessible bituminous trails at Groveland Park using funding Fund 444.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Department Happenings

Meeting Date: August 14, 2013
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.

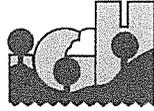
SUMMARY

Items included:

- Department Happenings Report
- Miscellaneous



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



Parks

Groveland Park Playground Replacement

New concrete curb was poured to accommodate the new playground at Groveland Park scheduled for construction to start August 12, 2013. Parks crew also removed the rest of old equipment and existing wood fiber to make room for the new. Drain tile was installed in south end of playground area by parks crew and STS to assist with drainage due to heavy clay soils and high groundwater at Groveland Park. After playground is installed new playground wood fiber will be installed by park and STS crews. The final construction step will be installing new bituminous around the building and to various amenities in park to comply with new ADA laws.

Tree Trust busy at North Valley Park

Tree Trust crew contract started with work commencing at North Valley Park disc golf course on June 13. The Tree Trust crew has completed benches and retaining walls at North Valley Park disc golf course. The benches provide a place to sit and lay equipment when out on the course. Benches are what many users of course have been requesting over the years. Retaining walls were constructed along the east side of the course along steep hill going up to Cahill. These and benches provide space for golfers to stand while waiting to throw. Mulching of baskets is also an annual task that Parks crew and STS crew accomplished this month.

GIS Intern

The Technology Department hired an intern to help Parks with entering data in to software to assist with organizing park infrastructure and assets. Allison has been very helpful in entering data in to Carte' Graph Versa View software to help organize and better track the great variety of infrastructure assets the Parks Division maintains. Hopefully she will be able to return next summer and continue this process.

Bituminous Maintenance

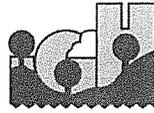
Many park trails have been crack filled this year per parks pavement management program. These trails will then be seal coated next year. Seal coat request for quotes were sent out and Fahrner was low quote. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and this work can still be done in August.

Park Repairs

As usual a few unplanned park infrastructure asset repairs/replacements needed to be done in July. Due to heavy rain overwhelming a storm sewer in Sleepy Hollow Park, a new concrete storm pipe needed to be replaced and the



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



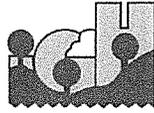
bituminous trail re-paved. We are waiting for the pipe excavation to settle before replacing the bituminous trail. The concession building well pump motor at Rich Valley Park needed to be replaced to provide potable water for the bathrooms and concessions on site. Two decorative fountains motors at Simley Lake burned out and are scheduled to be replaced the week of August 12.

Simley Lake Park

Parks and STS crews are in the process of removing buckthorn, opening up views and providing for more recreational opportunities on the east shore of Simley Lake. The crews removed much buckthorn and other undesirable vegetation, removed dead or dying trees and trimmed up the trees we want to keep. Stumps are scheduled to be removed soon and then some minor grading will take place. Seeding where appropriate will take place end of August along with some mulching of trees. This work should allow residents more reason to visit Simley Lake Park and enjoy the views and lake experience.



Parks & Recreation Department Department Happenings



Inver Wood Golf Course

B.E.S.T. Foundation Tournament

The 22nd Annual B.E.S.T. Foundation Tournament is scheduled for later this month on Monday August 26th. A shotgun field of 112 to 120 players will participate that day to raise money for the B.E.S.T. Scholarship Fund designed to reward Simley High School students for academic achievement. Help us fill the event by directing any interested players or teams to www.invergrove.k12.mn.us/Golf_Tournament or to the golf course's "contact us" tab at inverwood.org and we will forward the inquiry to the tournament committee.

August Junior League Begins

The late summer junior league begins this week on Wednesday August 7th with weekly play running for a four week season ending August 28th. 32 youngsters are registered to play. Play occurs on the Executive Course on Wednesday mornings.

Reminders

Please help promote Inver Wood's Family Program. On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday Afternoons after 12:00 Noon, children ages 7 to 17 play free with each paid adult Executive Course green fee.

And to make tee times and for complete information regarding programs and rates, visit our website at www.inverwood.org

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Discuss Adopt-a-Park Program

Meeting Date: August 14, 2013
 Item Type: Regular Agenda
 Contact: Tracy Petersen – 651.450.2588
 Prepared by: Tracy Petersen
 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

To Discuss the Adopt-a-Park Program.

SUMMARY

The Adopt-a-Park Program was implemented in 2005 to assist in helping keep our parks and trails clean and safe for all of our users. The program was also initiated to provide residents an opportunity to volunteer and give back to their community's park system.

The program is set up where families, individuals, businesses, services groups, etc. may volunteer to adopt a park for a two-year period. Adopt-a-Park volunteers are asked to clean up their selected park and/or trail area one (1) time a month from April-October. Volunteers typically do not work on any labor intensive park projects (buckthorn removal, etc.) as a part of their park cleaning schedule.

Adopt-a-Park volunteers also provide and report to staff information regarding vandalism, broken glass, broken equipment and any other issues they may encounter during their monthly cleanup.

Currently, the following parks are adopted: Lion's, Seidl's, Oakwood, Sleepy Hollow, Community Center, River Front, Swing Bridge, North & South Valley, Simley Island and McGroarty Parks. Volunteers are recognized on the City's website and in our Park and Recreation brochure. The program has been successful over the years with many groups staying with the program since its inception.

Staff has looked at new additions to supplement the program and some possible ideas include:

- Add a spring or fall clean up day which could incorporate Adopt-a-Park volunteers as well as others from the community (this was done 4-5 years ago and was successful).
- Work with a local business or other large service organization to provide a volunteer opportunity to do a park clean up and/or work with staff on a specific park project at a specific park. This would involve assistance from staff and would be more labor intensive.
- Work with the School District on a possible youth opportunity for cleaning the parks.

Staff would like to discuss these ideas with the Commission.

CITY OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS

REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Future of Our Parks Report

Meeting Date: August 14, 2013
Item Type: Administrative Presentations
Contact: Eric Carlson – 651.450.2587
Prepared by: Eric Carlson
Reviewed by: Mark Borgwardt
Tracy Petersen
Bethany Adams

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 and Commissioners Mary Hapka 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: August 14, 2013
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.