

**City of Inver Grove Heights Minutes of the Proceedings
Of The Park and Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, June 12, 2013**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Eiden called the June 12, 2013 Park and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Al Eiden; Commissioners: Willie Krech, Jim Huffman, Mary Hapka, and Deb Tix
Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson

Absent: Vice Chair Dennis Schueller; Commissioners: Stan Johnson, Mark Freer, and Joe Boehmer
Recording Clerk Sheri Yourczek

Chair Eiden stated he would like to add an item to the agenda and then table it. He was going to add it as agenda item 8D. June is when they elect new Officers to the Commission. Due to so many missing from the Commission this evening he would like to table it if it is okay with those here.

3. PRESENTATIONS:

A. Presentation on the VMCC/Grove Aquatic Programs – Tammy Abrahamson

Tammy Abrahamson, Aquatics Coordinator, gave an update on the following aquatics programs:

*Participation in the pool is up 15% from last year.

*We also do swimming lessons. We service about 1200 youth.

*We have birthday parties. The number one seller is the pool birthday party and they are working on marketing outside the Community to bring in more people to our facility.

-Upcoming activities in the summer include:

*Dairy Queen Days. June 28th, July 26th and August 3rd. The first 100 people that come to the pool those days will get a coupon to use at the local Dairy Queen.

*\$2.00 Days. Takes place on the first Friday night of the month. The next one is Friday, July 5th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

*July 19th is halfway through the summer season. On that day you can come to the pool and pay half price admission from 12:00 to 7:30 p.m.

She has also taken over the open gym program. She is looking into doing more open gyms with more family themes to them.

Chair Eiden asked about the Dairy Queen Days, are adults eligible or just children?

Coordinator Abrahamson responded it includes all ages.

Chair Eiden asked if they are looking into other additional activities?

Coordinator Abrahamson responded they are always looking into new activities. Last year they offered a new Intro to Swim Club class and Intro to Diving class. They are hoping to do those year round now instead of just one particular season. They are looking into the trends going on right now and focusing on those.

Chair Eiden asked if she has anything to do with the Competition Swimming going on with the schools?

Coordinator Abrahamson responded she does scheduling of the facility with the school. It is going very well. They communicate well. The Booster Clubs are great to work with. They have a group called the Aquatic Club of Dakota County and the Dakota County Diving Club, they rent from us and we have worked hard to work with them to get in at decent times to use the pool. Their program has increased. They have 25 divers and 45 swimmers.

Chair Eiden wanted to welcome our newest Commissioner, Deb Tix, to the Commission.

Commissioner Tix mentioned she grew up in the Coates area and has lived here for nine years. She has enjoyed multiple sports through college and plays national Softball. She enjoys all the parks in Inver Grove Heights and wants to see those moving forward, which is why she joined the Commission.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. You can find information regarding the City of Inver Grove Heights by visiting our Web Site at: www.invergroveheights.org**
- B. Joint Meeting with the City Council and Park Champions on June 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.**
- C. Next Meeting: July 10, 2013. Regular Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of Agenda**
- B. Approval of Minutes of April 10, 2013**

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

Aye: 5
Nay: 0 **Motion carried.**

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

8. REGULAR AGENDA:

A. Consider Park Dedication Requirements for Don and Sue Schlomka – Case NO 13-19SC

Parks and Recreation Director Eric Carlson stated we have two items on the Agenda dealing with Park Dedication. The first one is proposed from Don and Sue Schlomka. They are developing a 4.07 acre parcel. We don't indicate a need for park land or any trails in this general area; therefore we are recommending cash dedication in the amount of \$5,500 per acre for a total of \$22,385.00.

Motion by Commissioner Krech, seconded by Commissioner Huffman, to accept the Park Dedication as presented.

Aye: 5
Nay: 0 **Motion carried.**

B. Consider Park Dedication Requirements for Hallblade Properties LLC – Case NO 13-18SC

Motion by Commissioner Krech, seconded by Commissioner Huffman, to accept the Park Dedication.

Aye: 5
Nay: 0 **Motion carried.**

C. Consider the Purchase of New Playground Equipment for Groveland Park

Parks Superintendent Mark Borgwardt stated they sent out requests for bids to three vendors. Our Recreation Superintendent, the Parks Lead Worker, and himself, have developed a matrix on how to rate them. Two of the vendors rated high enough to be considered. We took those two out to the neighborhood and held a meeting. It was well attended by about 20 to 25 people and children.

Commissioner Krech asked how they rate criteria for playgrounds.

Superintendent Borgwardt responded they rate the playgrounds based on aesthetics, durability, and play value. They take a weighted average of those criteria. 25% goes to aesthetics, 35% to durability, and 40% to play value. Durability covers warranty, maintenance, how many systems do we have in the City, how durable the components are, etc. Play value covers how much variety of play there is there, how much creativity and challenge does each play structure offer. We then rate those and give it a rated average that must score eight or more and two of the vendors scored that. We invite those vendors in and have an informal interview. The budget here was for \$70,000. We want the vendors to know that this is the dollar amount and they provide the options we are looking for.

The two vendors that we are considering are Webber Recreational Design and St. Croix Recreation. Both vendors provided a tree house type structure based on what we have asked for. The area for the playground is considered to be a tight space, so we thought going up would be the best option here. We also wanted some climbing features for older kids, since we have to provide for two different age structures, for example ages 2 to 5, and 5 and up.

The vendor, Webber Recreational Design, provided us with a nice tree house-like structure. There are two swings there, as well as an ADA bucket swing. We do have a lot of this type structure within this City. The neighbors were kind of split within the two, with a preference for this one, which is also the one we preferred. St. Croix has a nice elevated component to it. It has a tree house to the side. It has a lot of upper body strength and play components. No cables or ropes like the other one did, but it does have a lot of smaller shade areas. It was a tough decision to decide between the two. Having the criteria is very helpful in making our decision. Both are very good play structures and the vendors are easy to work with and provide great customer service.

Commissioner Huffman asked which vendor did Skyview Park?

Superintendent Borgwardt responded it was St. Croix Recreation.

Chair Eiden asked what the timetable was?

Superintendent Borgwardt stated they are going to try to get it to the City Council on the 24th. Then he would call the vendor on the 25th. It would take about a month to get everything here. They are going to try to get it in mid-August. The swings are still up there. The playground equipment was pulled due to safety concerns back in April.

Commissioner Huffman stated he was out there a couple of weeks ago. He felt the curbing needed to be replaced.

Superintendent Borgwardt agreed. He is in talks with Engineering regarding replacing that parking lot sometime this summer. That would include all the curbing and the parking lot. He will be bringing that before this Commission hopefully in July. Some of the neighbors also mentioned that during the meeting.

Commissioner Hapka felt they had some nice options there. The option we wish to go with had a wider deck? St. Croix had a smaller deck?

Superintendent Borgwardt responded yes. The other vendor had two smaller decks. It's hard to decide between the two. The City Attorney helped us with the criteria which is very helpful. We are recommending the Miracle Equipment from Webber Recreational Design from Hastings.

Motion by Commissioner Krech to approve replacement of the Groveland Playground with Webber Recreational Design at a cost of \$70,000 to come from the Park Maintenance Fund. Seconded by Commissioner Hapka.

Aye: 5

Nay: 0 Motion carried.

D. Election of New Officers

Tabled

9. ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS:

A. Department Happenings

Director Carlson has nothing to add, but will stand by and answer any questions they may have.

B. Review Park & Recreation Commission Handbook

Director Carlson wanted to point out that the City Council meets in May to do the Commissioner re-appointments. They have re-appointed Commissioners Huffman and Krech for another three year term. We have a new Commissioner, Commissioner Deb Tix. They did not re-appoint Commissioner Solberg, but wanted to thank him for his three years of service to the Commission and all the sub-committees he was involved with. They would like to thank him for all his service for the Park and Recreation Commission. The Handbook is included for your information.

Commissioner Krech asked about the tunnels that were painted. Are they all painted now?

Director Carlson responded that the tunnel you are referring to is in The Arbor Pointe Development. That tunnel is done. We have two more tunnels. One at North/South Valley Park, and the other on the Highway 52 Trail. Those two tunnels have not had a painting project, or anyone to take it on. The Girl Scout, Catherine Link, who led the Arbor Pointe project, did a great job.

Chair Eiden felt they needed to find another group to do a project such as that. Perhaps we need to advertise for some starving artists that may want to do that. If anyone wants to do so, please feel free to contact us.

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

Chair Eiden stated they didn't have too much to report. Next Monday they will be meeting with the Council.

Director Carlson stated that meeting will take place on Monday, June 17th, at 7:00 p.m. in the training room downstairs in the police wing of the building. They will listen to the Park Champions and the Commissioners. We encourage all the Commissioners to attend. We encourage the Park Champions to attend, as well as anyone in the public who may be interested in parks and trails.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Krech asked where the money for Groveland Park comes from? What fund?

Director Carlson responded it comes from Fund 444. It cannot come out of the Park Dedication Fund. It is not new, it's existing. That's the Fund that is of general topic on Monday night that has a funding gap.

Chair Eiden commented that park was scheduled to have the equipment replaced this year.

Director Carlson responded they try to replace playground equipment every 15 years. This equipment was 17 years old and past the timeline to replace. During a monthly inspection they found safety issues and had to pull the equipment immediately. It will be replaced mid-August.

Commissioner Hapka had no comment.

Commissioner Huffman welcomed the new Commissioner.

Commissioner Krech welcomed the new Commissioner.

Commissioner Tix thanked everyone for welcoming her.

Chair Eiden also welcomed the new Commissioner. He mentioned that next Monday night, if you are interested in parks within our City, there is a lot of work being done in regards to what to do with our parks system. We invite all of you to come down to listen, ask questions, or make comments.

11. ADJOURN

Motion by Commissioner Huffman, seconded by Commissioner Hapka, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Aye: 5

Nay: 0 Motion carried.