

Park & Recreation Board
Monday, January 12, 2015
Minutes

Members Present: William Ramsey, Patrick Carroll, Shirley Davis, Charlie Bruckner, June Sprout, Lynn Ulmer-Oatman

Members Absent: Russ Motschenbacher

Staff Present: Joe Petrella, Patty Rearden, Todd Seymanski, Lonnie Dalke, Cindy Stein

Introduction of Director Joe Petrella, new board members, June Sprout, and Lynn Ulmer-Oatman.

Meeting called to order

With no corrections or additions to the minutes from December Board motioned to approve as written, motion second and carried.

Director's Report

- Community Recreation Center held the annual Electric City Winter Classic basketball tournament over the week-end with 72 teams playing.
- Mike Dalton originally scheduled to be on today's agenda has rescheduled for meeting in February. Joe will meet with him this week.
- Been busy meeting with the City Commission, Mayor, staff and will be attending the Neighborhood Council meetings.
- Park and Forestry have teamed together to remove all this snow.
- Westside Little League Use Agreement was approved by the City Commission.

Old Business

Westbank Park Update

- Board received drawings of proposed Westbank Park projects.
- Project reviewed for new members
- Proposal presented to the City Commission on December 16th with full approval from the Commissioners
- Would like to have the bulk of the project completed in 2015
- Most of the funding is in place (Board received an overview of funding sources)
- Next step is to get approve from the City/County Planning Board and they will forward onto the City Commission for final the approval.
 - City/County Planning Board recommends the use of TIF funds with Commission giving final approval, Planning Board meets again in February.
- CTA contract to design the restroom has been approved by the City Commission.

New Business

Law Enforcement Memorial

Dave Bowen, Police Chief, Dan Smith, Vice President of the Local Police Association and Linda Fagenstrom, Police Volunteer Advocate were present to discuss a proposed Police Memorial to be placed at Overlook Park.

- Presentation done via power point (attached)
 - Police Association will take care of the annual upkeep
 - Shoveling walkway
 - They have a fund set up to cover all costs associated with the Memorial
- Park & Recreation pays for the lighting at the flag and statue now, so will also pay for lighting the memorial. Park is already irrigated and will cover irrigation at the Memorial. Low maintenance plants will be used.
- Once the plans are complete Park and Recreation with Police will initiate a formal agreement on maintenance of the Memorial.

Board motioned to approve the location for the Police Memorial at Overlook Park. Motion second and carried.

Park Dedication Ordinance

Andrew Finch, Sr. Transportation Planner with City/County Planning and Galen Amy, Planner discussed the new ordinance they would like to implement for park dedication vs. cash in lieu of parkland.

- Currently more developers are going with the cash in lieu of parkland (funds go into the Park Trust)
- There are huge discrepancies between Local and State Codes when it comes to parkland dedication on new developments.
- They are looking to change the Ordinance to be more consistent with State Code.
 - By updating we would be able to make strategic decisions on new developments
- New procedure would be based on current park plan and to keep it current helping us make more strategic decisions - Park & Recreation Master Plan (1995)
 - Current plan is very outdated and city is growing north with no plan associated with development further north
- Andrew provided a map showing parks that currently have play structures (including schools) showing where the gaps are within a 3/8-1/4 mile buffer.
- New ordinance will provide for more options for parkland dedication; currently only a parcel for future park use - undeveloped now; they complied with the letter of the law but not funding for development. This will allow us more strategic about what is required.
 - Now it is 11% of new development towards a park or cash in lieu of parkland
- They are proposing to bring the state provisions into the city codes on parkland dedication
- Asked to review and work through it to come up with something that is workable and realistic, would like to take to the Commission.
- Newest sub division is Westridge and they would like to see some changes made before approving.
- There is also a proposal giving the authority to establish Neighborhood Park Maintenance Assessments.

Board & Commission Training Report

Pat Carroll informed the Board on what was discussed at the training class held for Advisory Board members

- Have good minutes from meetings
- Roberts Rules

Miscellaneous Reports/Announcements

Staff

Todd Seymanski, City Forester

- Helping Parks with snow removal
- Christmas is all down
- Waiting for weather to break to get back to trimming
- Staff studying for pesticide application licenses and certified arborist test
- Received the Tree City USA award for 35th Year

Lonnie Dalke, Park Supervisor

- Snow removal keeping everyone busy

Patty Rearden, Deputy Director

Heritage Tourism Planning Event

Efforts are being made to market everything along the river as a heritage site

- Puts us on the map nationally and internationally
- Federal funding that is tied to being a part of the Heritage Tourism.
- No areas have been designated
- Grant Tour Event end of this month
- Tourism assessment has been done on Great Falls and will be presented at the meeting.
- We would be the first one in Montana.
- There are no federal restrictions if areas are designated as a Heritage Tourism area

With no further discussion meeting adjourned at 4:08pm.