

Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, October 12, 2015
Minutes

Members Present: Lynn Ulmer Oatman, Patrick Carroll, Shirley Davis

Members Absent: June Sprout, Charlie Bruckner, Bill Ramsey

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

Meeting called to order at 3:00pm.

There was no quorum present to approve minutes.

Directors Report

Joe Petrella, Park and Recreation Director

- A committee of citizens is interested in putting in an ADA playground in Grande Vista Park.
 - They are in the beginning stages of their initiative and have created posters to generate donations towards the play structure.
 - Their projected costs are very low and Joe will meet with them once they are at a comfortable level to discuss further.
 - Park and Recreation supports their initiative.

- Project on River's Edge Trail extension
 - RTI is working on a connection from the Electric City Water Park to Broadwater Bay. Project is estimated at 1.5 million and includes an extension over the river. The river extension will require approval/permission from BSNF and Army Corp.; they will not allow to tunnel under the road.
 - The project is in the early design stage.

- Joe shared a video on "Play for All" which provides play structures for those with disabilities. The video highlighted a park designed for those with and without handicap structures. Joe also talked to the vendor at the National Park and Recreation Conference last month.

- During the last Commission meeting Mayor Winters discussed his initiative to have an event center built in Gibson Park.
 - Mayor Winters had initially brought the idea to Park and Recreation a couple of years ago.
 - The Mayor's interest involves a local construction company building the event center, managing it and paying the City a monthly fee.
 - More information and more discussion need to be done. The Commission is split on what direction we need to go at this time.
 - Staff noted that this project or any project will need to follow City Ordinance and go through City process to determine if there is a need for such a facility.
 - Staff would like to wait until the Masterplan is completed also before any decisions on going forward are made.

- Park and Recreation Board feel that it should follow the public process and serve a recreational purpose if it is going to be in a park.

OLD BUSINESS

Park and Recreation Masterplan, Joe Petrella

Four proposals were received to develop a Park and Recreation Masterplan. PROS Consulting was the highest rated after review by a committee of 5 people which included the Park and Recreation Director, Deputy Park and Recreation Director, City Attorney, Deputy City Manager and the Community Development Director. PROS Consulting submitted the best proposal at a cost of \$89,000; proposal was very detailed on their process.

The Masterplan process will start in November, 2015 and scheduled to be completed in August, 2016. There will be 10 committee meetings and 6 outside meetings, including a public survey. The process also includes a recreation service analysis. It will become a living document to be used over the next 20 years. PROS Consulting will sub contract locally to assist in the process.

Vending in City Parks, Joe Petrella

Continuation on vending in parks discussion from earlier board meetings; Joe has been approached by one of the City Commissioners to lower the yearly fee for Vendors in City Parks from \$750 to \$500/year. It is a consensus from staff and the City Manager that we keep the fee at \$750. per year.

Board has a concern on how staff will handle schedules of vendors in the park.

- There will be 7 parks that we will allow vendors in;
- In some parks there can be up to 4 vendors at the same time.
- There is no written plan on how we will control vendors at this time.
- All vendors will have to purchase a vendor certificate from Park and Recreation, have their City license and Health Department certificate along with 1,000,000 liability insurance.

This is a new process and staff may need to set up a vendor meeting. In addition there will be special dates when staff will decide what type of vending will be allowed in the park.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business to discuss.

Miscellaneous Reports/Announcements

Staff

Lonnie Dalke, Park Supervisor

- Getting snow fence up for winter
- Taking the docks out next week at Broadwater Bay
- Feeding docks at Gibson Pond have been removed
- Ducks will be moved into their winter quarters this Friday at 10:30am
- Blowing out irrigation lines and bathrooms in some of the parks
- Started on Bay Drive project and Westbank Park parking lots

- Completed the removal of Park and Ponder and added a concrete slab along with asphalt where the building stood
- Painted the outside of the restroom at Gibson Park
- Rivers Edge Trail from Oddfellow to Broadwater Bay will be overlaid
- Broadwater Bay boat ramp project to be completed with pouring new concrete at the top apron of the ramp.
- With Doug Wicks retiring, it brings more responsibility of Rivers Edge Trail to the Park Department. Staff will be hired to oversee any future trail maintenance.

Todd Seymanski, City Forester

- Trimming for the next week
- Onto leaf pick up November 16th and then back to trimming
- Organized the moving of the City's Christmas tree through MSC (crane) and Johnson Madison (low boy truck). Tree will be moved to the Civic Center the week prior to Thanksgiving.
- Down to a little more than 500 in hazardous tree trimmings left in the Boulevard District.

Board

Board asked about Gibson Pond freezing and ice skating. With Great Falls weather it has been difficult keeping the ice frozen for any amount of time to allow ice skating on Gibson Pond. In addition, once the top layers freeze we have the wild geese that poop on the ice causing divots of melted ice. This occurs immediately after we clean off areas for skating.

Public Comment

No public comment.

With no further business to discuss meeting adjourned at 4:01