

APPROVED

Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

June 13, 2013 Regular Meeting

The June 13, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:05pm in the Social Room of the Recreation Center with Gerry Palau, Board Chair presiding.

Roll Call

Members present at roll call: Frank Chmielewicz , Gerry Palau, Dan Robbins, Alan Tatum and Cathy Toth. Late members: Allen Eubanks and Laurel Patrick. Absent were Sherith Colverson and Bridgette Ellis.

Approval of the May 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes for May 9, 2013 was made by Alan Tatum and seconded by Frank Chmielewicz. The minutes were approved by a 5-0 vote.

Appearance and Citizen Comments

Doug Colclasure appeared before the Board to express his disappointment in the Industrial Development Board's action at its June 11th meeting. The IDB approved the construction of a 69kv line at the rear of Horizon Center along the gravel patrol road that is licensed to the City as a greenway. Doug stated that the IDB approved the recommendation of Jack Suggs, City Electrical Director with no consideration for the environmental impact on the area. He also stated he felt City staff disregarded the letter sent by Park Board Chair Gerry Palau regarding the recreational impacts along the greenway. According to Doug, the public was not given a chance to speak.

Committee Reports

Dog Park Committee- Bridgette Ellis

Josh Collins briefed the Board on the meeting between City staff and Pet Safe regarding the final Dog Park design. He also discussed City Council approval on first reading of the Dog Park Off Leash Ordinance. City staff is currently bidding the concrete work and entrance sign for the Park. Fencing, water fountains and benches will be bid next. The Dog Park Committee plans to have a booth at the upcoming Secret City Festival.

Bike/Ped Committee- Sherith Colverson

Sherith has been asked to review the existing committee charter and determine whether the committee is willing to broaden its scope and engage in promoting community and educational events, or whether it should become inactive for the indefinite future.

Community Funding Opportunities Committee – Laurel Patrick

Laurel reported on the June 6th committee meeting with representatives from two community groups. The groups discussed their current activities and expressed a need for funding. Since there appears to be some reluctance to donate to a government entities, Laurel has done some research on tax deductible contributions. Gerry Palau asked about in kind contributions such as service projects and community work days. Laurel plans to have a draft available for review at the August meeting.

Long-term Strategy/Needs Assessment Committee – Alan Tatum

Alan discussed the initial committee meeting and the direction he hopes to move. He wants to develop baseline information on current facilities, amenities and maintenance needs for the park system. Take a close look at large infrastructure items and begin work on establishing maintenance priorities. He plans to use the City's Capital Improvements Program, the 1999 Benchmarking Study and the ADA Transition Plan as a starting point. He hopes to get a better understanding of the long and short term impact of deferring maintenance on recreational facilities. In some cases, funding for capital projects may come from corporate or individual donations and could be tied to Laurel's committee.

Waterfront Redevelopment Master Planning Committee – Gerry Palau

Gerry distributed copies of a document that outlined Waterfront Master Planning Considerations that listed committee objectives and future projects/phases. He also shared additional information prepared by Committee member Allen Eubanks that divided the waterfront from Elza Gate to Solway into development zones. Board members were asked to review the material at their leisure and provide any additional ideas or input to the committee. The committee's next step will be to develop a matrix of potential waterfront projects that will articulate more detail on scope, benefits, constraints, and order of magnitude cost estimates.

Unfinished Business

Dan Robbins reported on his discussion with City staff on the Electronic Reader Signs. City Council has returned the issue to the Planning Commission further review.

New Business

None

Director's Report

New China Palace Update

Josh Collins briefed the Board on the recent lease extension that allows the restaurant to continue operating until late August and must vacate the property by Labor Day. Work on the new location on Central Avenue has been delayed thus forcing an extension of the lease.

Equipment Rental Update

Josh gave a progress report on Adventures Outdoors Kayak, Trikke and Bike Rentals. The company's inventory is growing and business is picking up. Recently, the company reported that all of their bikes and kayaks were rented for the weekend. The City is happy with the company's performance thus far.

Neon Vibe 5K

Josh shared information on the planning for a new, evening-hour, 5K race scheduled for September 21st in/around Bissell Park. The organizers believe the race could attract several thousand participants and spectators. Several city departments, including the police department are actively engaged in making this a successful community event.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.
