

Approved

## Minutes of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting

February 9, 2012 Regular Meeting

The February 9, 2012 Regular Meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board was convened at 7:00pm in the Social Room of the Recreation Center with Gerry Palau, Board Chair presiding.

### Roll Call

Members present included: Sherith Colverson, Bob Cushman, Bridgette Ellis, Allen Eubanks, Gerry Palau, Laurel Patrick, Dan Robbins and Cathy Toth. Absent was Lou Rabinowitz.

### Approval of the January 12, 2012 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the January 12, 2012 minutes was made by Bob Cushman and seconded by Laurel Patrick. The minutes were approved by a 5-0 vote.

### Appearance and Citizen Comments

Dennis Gound, Trail Steward for the Big Turtle Nature Trail, appeared before the Board to share his concerns about the condition of the trail and encouraged the Board to support an effort to pave the trail. His presentation outlined several areas of the trail along East Fork Popular Creek that had eroded leaving large rocks and roots in the path. He also expressed concerns over ADA issues.

Dan Robbins asked that the issue be added to the March Board meeting. No estimates were offered regarding the potential cost for paving and addressing the ADA issues.

### Committee Reports

#### Bike/Ped Committee- Sherith Colverson

Sherith Colverson reported on the activities of the Bike/Ped Working Committee and the focus on proposed improvements at the Lafayette/Illinois Ave. intersection. The Committee hopes to review preliminary designs at its February meeting with Steve Byrd, City Engineer. Sherith plans to discuss the designs with the Board at its March meeting. Sherith also mentioned discussing a bike rack installation with Terry Wheeler, one of the developers for the Woodland Town Center project.

#### Dog Park Committee- Bridgette Ellis

Bridgette Ellis reported on the first meeting of the Dog Park Committee on January 30 with 6 members in attendance. The meeting was designed to re-energize the group and review the scope/vision. The Recreation and Parks Department staff had sent out an inquiry to other Rec Departments in the state seeking information on dog parks. Twenty two Departments responded with nine indicating they operated a dog park. The staff hopes to send out a second round of questions dealing with construction/operation costs, amenities and lessons

learned. Next meeting of the committee will be on February 22. The Committee hopes to participate in the April 28<sup>th</sup> Earth Day event.

Playful City USA- Allen Eubanks

No report.

### Unfinished Business

February 4<sup>th</sup> Retreat Follow Up

Individual Board members shared their impressions and thoughts on the Department presentation. Comments included a need to promote the activities/programs, better communications with the public, developing a long term vision for the department and developing a PR plan for the department. Bob Cushman suggested a follow up session to brain storm what was learned and develop a plan of action. He urged the Board to schedule a weekend session rather than use the regular meeting time for discussions. Chairman Palau commented on the value of a recreational needs assessment and working with the community to establish priorities and develop a balance when planning for future needs. The Board hopes to schedule a follow up session within the next 4-6 weeks.

The Board discussed methods to engage the public and solicit input on community needs. Should the Board hold public forums, use regular meetings for public input or hold additional "Open House" sessions prior to a scheduled meeting? After a period of discussion, the Board scheduled an "Open House" at 6pm prior to the March, June, September and December meetings. The first session will focus on Athletics.

Copies of the presentation and a blank facility use agreement for soccer will be sent to Board members as a follow up to the retreat.

### New Business

Attendance Policy

Chairman Palau reviewed the City Council approved Attendance Policy for Boards and Commissions. Board members with three absences will be asked to provide letters detailing reasons for their absences and seeking Board approval as outlined by the Policy.

Capital Improvements Program

Josh Collins reviewed the proposed CIP for FY 2013-2018 and the process the Recreation and Parks Department staff follows when preparing the document. He discussed the staff's priority on maintenance vs. new construction. City Council allocates \$1.5 million for Capital Projects. The City and Schools each receive \$750,000. The City's share is spent on public facilities such as the Municipal Building, Fire Stations, parking lots and parks. The Recreation and Parks Department receives between \$350-400,000 for maintenance of the parks, pools, ball fields, trails and buildings. The Department staff reevaluates the plan and priorities each year. Emergency repairs and changing conditions may force the staff to make changes in CIP priorities even after funding approval has taken place.

Director's Report

Josh Collins, Recreation and Parks Director, updated the Board on the bike rack project and discussed the Rails to Trails Project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

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