

**PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 9, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Katrine Nau opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Committee Members Present: Katrine Nau, Janae Stern, Denise McDowall Seyko, Beverly Anderson, David Schreiber, Paul Winters, Renee Rossman and Planning Commission Liaison Scott Marotz. Also Present: Public Works Director Michael Goebel. Those Absent: City Council Liaison Nick Christenson.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Member Winters made a motion to approve the January 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Committee McDowall Seyko, unanimous ayes, motion carried.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3A. RIVER OAKS PLAN REVIEW-BIG LAKE PARKS BOARD PRESENTATION

The Master Plan on River Oaks Park was presented to City Council at the Council Workshop Meeting on January 21, 2015. Overall, City Council liked the design of the park and recommended to the Parks Advisory Committee to apply for the grants which would be 25% matching and less.

3B. RIVER OAKS GRANTS

The Parks Committee Members reviewed the potential grant sources for River Oaks Park supplied by Bolton & Menk.

The Parks Legacy Grant – Minnesota DNR Grant would cost \$3,500.00 for Bolton & Menk to write. Public Works Director Goebel is seeking another cost estimate. The Parks Legacy Grant's application is due September 2015. Discussion followed. It was also discussed if some of the components of one grant application could be applied to other grant applications.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4A. COUNCIL APPROVED CHAIR APPOINTMENT KATRINE NAU

FYI – No discussion followed.

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee that the skating rinks are officially closed for the season.

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee that through the Work Force Program, the Big Lake Schools and the City, Public Works received a grant to hire ten high school students and two supervisors from the school to work June 8, 2015 through

June 23, 2015 on a project. A couple of ideas that Public Works Director Goebel shared was installing disc golf either in River Oaks Park or Hudson Woods Park and the other project would be to do a mural painting on a well house at Lakeside Park representing what happens at the park, e.g. Music in the Park, Farmer's Market and Graniteman. The mural would depend if Big Lake High School had any artist's capable of painting murals.

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee that possibly SHIP has extra money. If money is available it could be used to complete a trail study throughout the entire City as the City's trail study is outdated. Public Works Director Goebel will keep the Committee informed.

Winterfest was discussed. Public Works Director Goebel wanted the Legacy Foundation's input but their last meeting was cancelled. Some comments from the Parks Advisory Committee; you could hear the DJ but not the band over at the fishing contest, the turnout was not good, and the fishing contest was good. Discussion followed. Winterfest will need to be discussed later to see if this is something the Parks Committee would like to continue with.

Committee Member Stern informed the Committee a new sports association (Neutral Parents) formed in Big Lake. There is some concern regarding if they have a mission statement and if they are working independently from City organizations. It is the hope of the Committee that the different organizations can join forces to accomplish the same goal.

#### 4B. MN DOT TRAIL INPUT MEETINGS

Included in the packet was information from MNDOT seeking public input for a statewide bicycle system plan. If any Park Committee Member would like to attend the meeting, it will be held in St. Cloud on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

5. STAFF UPDATE - None

6. NEW BUSINESS

Public Works Director Goebel informed the Committee there is a possible apartment complex that will be built on Martin Avenue. Because the land parcel is so small the Committee will need to take Park Dedication fees.

Planning Commission Liaison Martoz informed the Committee that a few Cities are going to funding parks through franchise fees. This idea might be considered for the future and brought to the City Council as within the next 10 years many of the parks that were built throughout the City will need maintenance and this could be a possible source of money. It was also mentioned that parks might need to be part of the City's budget.

Committee Member McDowall Seyko inquired on where we are with Oak Savannah Restoration Improvements to McDowall Park. Chair Nau stated we are in the 5<sup>th</sup> year and a burn is to take place this year.

7. ADJOURN

Committee Member Rossman motioned to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Seconded by Committee Member Stern, unanimous ayes, motion carried.