

Crystal Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
October 7, 2015
Public Works Building

Approved 11/2/15

The Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Erin Kolb. Commission members in attendance were: Lynn Haney, Tom Jungroth, Lori Merriam, Steve Hildre, Lassana Bamba Jr., and Nancy LaRoche. Also present were Brad Fortin, and Gene Hackett from the city staff; and Jeff Kolb, from the City Council. Also attending was Meredith Torres-Walsh, a candidate for Commission membership.

Mr. Fortin conducted a tour of the new Public Works facility.

Meredith Torres-Walsh was introduced to the Commission.

Jeff Kolb outlined the City Council's discussion on potential changes to the city's Commissions. The Council reviewed city Commission structure, duties, membership and talked with other cities to see how Commissions operate. After discussion, the Council decided to look at the recruitment and selection process of Commission members and may make some changes. Their thought is to create a pool of candidates that would be interviewed by the entire Council and then put on a type of eligibility list for when openings arise. In that way, positions could be filled as openings occur. An annual orientation event would be held. Additional work needs to be done including a re-write of the City Code regarding Commissions, develop training outlines and discuss possible term changes and organizational items. Mr. Jungroth suggested bringing back the annual appreciation dinner as this was a good opportunity for each Commission to see each other, network and receive recognition for volunteering.

The Commission discussed Mark Ray's memo regarding permanently closing the south portion of Brunswick Avenue near the Heathers back entrance up to the hill parking lot. A small parking lot or cul de sac would be included for parking. Commission discussion included:

- Liked the idea of a first phase to unite both sides of the park
- The closure is too far away from the park property on the west side and the more active park areas (gazebo, trails, sliding)
- Utilize the existing Brunswick parking lot – it's large size and conveniently located in the center of the area
- A gazebo/picnic shelter could be added near that parking lot – people would have the option of the east or west side for picnic.
- Proposed closing and cul de sac may affect the disc golf course

Ms. Hackett showed the Commission the original Bassett Creek Extension master plan that called for closing Brunswick/adding a parking lot not as far south as Mr. Ray proposed and vacating the existing parking lot. Commission members felt this was a better option than Mr. Ray's proposal as people wanting to use the gazebo for picnics would not have to carry their supplies quite so far. However, this may affect the disc golf course. A suggestion was made to move some of the disc golf holes to the west side (Extension area). The Commission asked staff to discuss this further and look at the suggested alternatives for further Commission discussion before a recommendation is made.

Minutes: October 2015

The Commission discussed changing the address of Becker Park as the 6225 56th Avenue address doesn't lead people to the park when they use their mobile devices. The GPS marker shows up on the east side of the railroad tracks. Community Development Director, John Sutter, offered address change suggestions. The Commission tried the suggestions in their mobile devices and selected 5501 Douglas Drive as the easiest address. The street address as well as the plat addresses will be changed if OK with Police and Fire. Ms. Hackett will contact Mr. Sutter to make the changes.

Ms. Hackett presented the samples of the way finding signs that will be funded by a Hennepin County grant. The Commission selected their preferred choices and would like to include the city logo. Mr. Fortin and Ms. Hackett will meet with Street Superintendent Mark Gaulke to get the signs made.

Ms. Hackett reported that the 3 Rivers Bassett Creek trail project came in over 1 million dollars over budget so 3 Rivers Park District is revising their plans. A community open house will be held once the plans are revised. More details available later.

The Commission accepted the changes to the dog park sign. Mr. Fortin will have the signs made and posted.

The neighborhood meetings were discussed. Commission members thought the meetings went well this year. The meetings were well attended and resident comments were valuable. The Commission will continue these meetings next year. The "to do" list was reviewed – most items are operational and will be taken care of by Park Maintenance. The: MAC Boardwalk will need to be added to the PIR/5 Year Plan.

The minutes were approved as sent.

Staff gave the monthly reports, highlighting major activities.

There was not a Crystal Frolics report.

The next CBA meeting is October 21 at Crystal City Hall.

The Blue Line Station Committee met and discussed the area around the proposed station at Bass Lake Road and Highway 81. Comments included:

- Becker Park is dark for walking at night – more lighting may be needed.
- The park trees have grown too big – might be a safety hazard so trimming may be needed.
- 81 and BL Road is a horrible intersection – some type of walkway should be considered.
- The commercial area along BL Road needs an upgrade.
- The area is the gateway to Crystal and needs to look inviting
- How does the park fit into a possible new focus in the area – can it be reconfigured or work with what we have to meet changing needs

Minutes: October 2015

Community News items:

- The Crime Prevention Board is having a fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings on October 14.
- The Light of Crystal get-together is at El Loro on October 15.
- The Run for Rocco netted a little over \$1000.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Gene Hackett
Recorder