

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission
Council Chambers, City Hall
May 27, 2014 – 6 p.m.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chairman Espich.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call: Taken by City Clerk Amy K. Kirkland.

Members Present: Chairman Michael Espich, Commissioners Tim Alderman, Nikki Hathaway, and Kristen Woodbury.

Members Absent: Vice-Chairman Jeff Selbig.

Others Present: Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development.

Approve Agenda for May 27, 2014 meeting.

A motion to approve the agenda for the May 27, 2014 meeting was made by Commissioner Alderman and supported by Commissioner Woodbury.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes from April 28, 2014 meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2014 meeting was made by Commissioner Alderman and supported by Commissioner Hathaway.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

Liam Hathaway was in attendance with his mother. He indicated he thought the parks were “pretty good”.

Board Comments:

Chairperson Espich said he appreciated the efforts of all of the people that came out to help clean up the parks a couple of weeks ago. He said he was particularly appreciative of the efforts from Josh Adams’ church group.

Communications:

1. Staff memorandum
2. April 28, 2014 minutes

Business:

1. Green Up/Clean Up – Recap

Ms. Montenegro reported that 45-60 volunteers showed up to clean up the City’s parks for the Green Up/Clean Up event. She said the clean up was intense as there were many trees damaged by last winter’s ice storm creating large amounts of brush that needed to be gathered and hauled away. She thanked all those that volunteered or donated to the event including VG’s, Kroger, Lance’s Bakery, Abiding in the Vine, the church group that volunteered and made lunch, and the DPW crews for working Saturday.

Ms. Montenegro indicated that next year she would like to use more of a team approach for the event with Commissioners stepping forward to coordinate certain portions of the event. She said she would also appreciate any advice the Commission may have on marketing the event. There was discussion regarding distributing flyers at the schools to publicize the event, “adopting” a park, connecting with National Honor Society students looking for volunteering opportunities, and connecting with IB students and Baker students.

2. Bark Park Clean Up – Recap

Commissioner Selbig was not present to provide a report on the clean up of the Bark Park, though it was acknowledged a large amount of brush had been removed from the park.

3. Promoting Active Communities Assessment (PAC)

Ms. Montenegro indicated the Assessment was intended to help increase the overall activity level of the community and covered a wide range of topics, not just parks. She said she was hoping the Commission members would read over the assessment materials in preparation for more in-depth discussions to be scheduled for a later date. A meeting was scheduled for June 12, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Conference Room to discuss the assessment.

There was discussion among the Commission members regarding funding for the parks system. Members discussed establishing a budget line item in the amount of \$5,000 to allow the Commission to react to opportunities and concerns in a more timely manner, wearing out the public’s welcome in relation to funding for projects, and whether the Commission could levy a millage to support the parks.

There was further discussion regarding the Community Gardens and the status of the waiver required for use of the gardens, the status of the splash pad, and whether it could be functional in time for Daniel Vargas’s wedding on Saturday.

Public / Board Comments: None

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Woodbury and was supported by Commissioner Alderman. The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

akk

Susan Montenegro, Secretary