

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

4:30 p.m., Prescott Neighborhood Resource Center

PRESENT: Bob Blocker, Paul Hoffmann, Karen Lyness and Evelyn Nadeau

ABSENT: Tom Blocklinger, Gary Harjehausen and Mark Noble

OTHERS: Staff present: Marie Ware, Pat Prevenas, Bob Fritsch and Eileen Trimble  
Laura Carstens, Planning Services Manager

WELCOME NEW LEISURE SERVICES MANAGER Acting Leisure Services Manager Pat Prevenas introduced and welcomed Marie Ware, new Leisure Services Manager. Marie's first official day of work was May 10th.

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE: It was moved by Lyness, seconded by Blocker, to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2010, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

CATFISH CREEK BIKE-HIKE TRAIL STUDY: Recreation Division Manager Pat Prevenas told commissioners that the idea to do this study came from Tri-State Trail Vision, one of the Envision 2010 groups, and they went to the City Council for approval to do the study. The process started in 2008 with MSA Professional Services being hired to do the study and come up with a plan, then get public input. Mr. Prevenas introduced Jake Huck and Pat Ready from MSA to present the information.

Mr. Huck explained that MSA was hired to do a study on the feasibility of investing money in the middle fork of Catfish Creek to put a 10' wide paved trail route extending from Bergfeld pond along the railroad tracks, through Dubuque and go all the way to the Mines of Spain (7.5 miles). The study is in draft form right now.

Phase I is for a two-mile stretch and there are multiple options within each phase. It would begin at Bergfeld pond to Chavenelle Court, which already exists; pick up there along industrial park and go along the railroad tracks, which includes a few small water areas. This would be the easiest section. Another option would be under the arterial overpass bridge by Medical Associates and go up behind properties; some of the terrain would be very difficult.

Phase II is a three-mile section that would pick up at Welu Drive north of Medical Associates and go along properties southwest of Kennedy Mall. There are a lot of private properties in this phase (around 19). Trail goes along north side of train tracks to avoid a lot of stream crossings and ends at Fremont.

Phase III is 2.75 miles picking up at Fremont and continuing near train tracks on north side of stream with one potential water crossing. The feasibility study tries to follow city easements already existing; cross under Highways 151/61 overpass to EB Lyons Mines of Spain.

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Phase 1 is approximately \$2.5 million; phase 2 approximately just under \$4 million; and phase 3 is approximately \$2.2 million. Property acquisition is not included in those cost estimates.

Commissioner Lyness asked about the time period for the project. Mr. Huck said the trail is seven and one-half miles long and would involve a lot of property acquisition. It would probably take at least five years for that, not even considering time restraints regarding funds. Commissioner Nadeau asked about the annual maintenance costs – probably similar to other trails. Planning Services Manager Laura Carstens said that part of the trail would be in a flood area so that type of maintenance would add expenses not included in other trail costs.

Mr. Huck reminded commissioners that it is a feasibility study so the city would need to decide if it is feasible to go through all the needed property acquisitions and come up with all the funding.

Mr. Prevenas said the next step for the project is to meet with property owners and set a public hearing to get citizen input. We should try and schedule it before the next commission meeting. Tuesday, May 25th or June 1st were suggested dates. MSA will send individual notices to property owners.

CHAIN  
REACTION  
BIKE CLUB  
REGARDING  
FDR PARK  
DEVELOPMENT:

Several members of the Chain Reaction Bike Club were at the meeting. Jess Stoffel was their spokesperson and she presented their mission statement and their ideas for development of FDR Park. Basically they want to protect the natural state of the park and legitimize its use as a multiple-use human powered trail system. They want to keep the park as natural as possible and not bulldoze the core area. If the park is kept as natural as possible and just enhance the current trails it could be low cost – maybe rest rooms, signage, kiosk at beginning of trails, no paved roads. The group feels the proposed master plan for development of the park does not include enough mountain biking or natural picnic areas and has too many segregated activities.

They want to work with the city to build on the existing trail infrastructure and keep the entire core natural area for human powered trails with priority on enhancing existing signs and mapping, while keeping the area mainly undeveloped. In March of 2010 they activated a log book for users to sign in and in the period of April 3rd to May 5th there were 216 people from all over the tri-state area that had signed in. The majority of those activities were hiking and mountain biking.

They want to increase awareness of human powered trail systems, encourage healthy lifestyles and enhance respect for our natural places.

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The group was asking what their next step should be so they can get this plan formalized and made definite. Mr. Prevenas said a lease might be the best option but a few years ago the group was working toward that goal and the city insurance requirements were too high. Manager Ware said it would also need to go to the public because this plan would change the intent of the recently adopted Master Plan.

PARK DIVISION  
REPORT:

Park Division Manager Bob Fritsch told commissioners:

◆ **Pet Parks:** Dodge and Locust site - Managers Ware and Prevenas met with the city manager regarding the Dodge and Locust Streets site and were given approval to proceed. They will be in communication with 2 x 2 to see if they would like to partner with our department. **FEES:** fees went into effect May 1st and approximately \$200 in daily fees has been collected and \$1,000 in annual pass sales. We have received comments/requests for other amenities to be added since fees are now being charged. ◆ **Rockdale Park:** Mr. Falb asked for a couple revisions to the plan and he sent an Eagle Scout to work with Manager Bob Fritsch on construction of part of the park. Next door neighbors seem to be happy with the plan. ◆ **The Bridge complex** at Eagle Point Park that was started last fall is almost completed and it is dramatic different inn appearance. The June commission meeting will be held at this pavilion. ◆ Construction on the **Northwest Arterial bike trail** has picked up again. ◆ Flowers are being planted at various sites. ◆ We have a few staff on limited duties due to back injuries.

RECREATION  
DIVISION  
REPORT:

Recreation Division Manager Pat Prevenas informed commissioners:

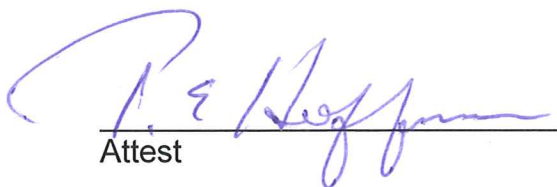
◆ **Golf:** April had the best number of golf rounds since 2000. ◆ **Softball** has 162 teams registered; **volleyball** has 33. ◆ Uptown Recreation brochure is available; new programs added for middle school age. ◆ **Pools:** staff started cleaning pools because they open in three weeks. ◆ Trolley Line Trail ribbon cutting is Monday at 5:30 p.m. at the mid point of the trail.

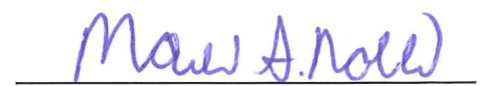
OTHER  
BUSINESS:

**Thank you to Manager Prevenas:** manager Ware thanked Mr. Prevenas for all his work as acting leisure services manager – it turned out to be a longer period than the original commitment was supposed to be for. **Indoor soccer:** Commissioner Nadeau asked about the success of the indoor soccer program, if the numbers were good. Mr. Prevenas said yes, there were 20 or 25 each date.

ADJOURN;  
VOTE:

It was moved by Blocker, seconded by Nadeau, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

  
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Attest

  
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Chairperson