

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
PARKS, ARTS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
February 10, 2010

- Minutes Present: Dave Schulze, Dan Wallerus, Kevin Thompson, Peter Moe, Gregg Thompson, Rachel Berkowitz, Gordie Holm
- Staff: Randy Quale, Manager, Parks and Recreation Division; Marilyn Cooper, Recording Secretary
- Call to Order Dan Wallerus called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Dakota Conference Room.
- Oath of Office for New Member Dan Wallerus administered the Oath of Office to Gordie Holm, who has been appointed to the Commission for a three-year term to expire December 31, 2012.
- Gordie Holm was asked to tell the Commission about his background. He was a longtime employee of the City of Bloomington in Park Maintenance, beginning as a seasonal employee in 1964 and retiring in 2007. He has a background in wildlife management and forestry with an interest in identification of wild mushrooms. He is a member of the Sister City organization. After his retirement from the City Gordie Holm was asked to work the deer management program in the winters of 2007 and 2008. His last big project was his work at River Rendezvous in 2009. Gordie Holm stated that he has no agendas to push but simply plans to use some of his expertise on Commission issues.
- Election of Chair and Vice-Chair The positions of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2010 were opened to nomination.
- Motion by Dan Wallerus, second by Gregg Thompson *to nominate Dave Schulze for the position of Chairperson.* Motion carried 7-0. Motion by Peter Moe, second by Dave Schulze *to nominate Dan Wallerus for the position of Vice-Chairperson.* Motion carried 7-0.
- Commission Annual Report for 2009 Randy Quale presented a draft of the Commission annual report for 2009. He explained that the report is an attempt to come up with highlights of the Commission year.
- Peter Moe asked for a change to be made to the draft to indicate that he was appointed to the Commission in 2009 to fill out the last year of another member's unexpired term rather than a three-year appointment.

Another modification will indicate that Jenny Paxton was elected as Vice-Chairperson in 2009 and served until the completion of her term in August, when she left to attend college out of state. Jim Goodermont was then elected to serve as Vice-Chairperson for the remainder of 2009.

Gregg Thompson asked that the bullet point about the prioritized recommendation to Council for 2009 Park Capital Improvement Plan project funding be modified to list the projects, including Valley View skate park equipment replacement.

Motion by Dan Wallerus, second by Gregg Thompson *to accept the modifications to the 2009 Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission Annual Report.* Motion carried 7-0. The 2010 Commission Work Plan and 2009 Commission Annual Report will be presented to the City Council on February 22 by the Commission chair, Dave Schulze.

2010 PARC Work Plan

The Commission again reviewed the 2010 Work Plan, which had been discussed at the January 13 meeting. Since a new Commission member took the Oath of Office at tonight's meeting, a new vote was held to accept the 2010 PARC Work Plan.

Motion by Rachel Berkowitz, second by Gregg Thompson *to endorse a recommendation to the City Council to accept the 2010 Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission Work Plan.* Motion carried 7-0.

Park Improvement Project  
Planning for 2010

Randy Quale explained to the Commission that decisions on funding projects were delayed in 2009 due to the budget and the economy. Because of those factors, the City Council did not take action on the five-year Community Investment Program (CIP) until September of 2009.

Randy Quale reminded the Commission that \$50,000 for replacement of skate park equipment at Valley View is included in the CIP. Existing equipment will be evaluated to determine if some of it can still be used.

Other provisions in the CIP are \$50,000 for ballfield bleachers and \$65,500 for natural resources improvements. Work is underway at Pond-Dakota Mission Park, and some scrub box elder trees were removed today. It has been recommended that one elm tree on the property be removed, also.

The Westwood playground equipment replacement project is moving ahead, and the work may be done as early as May. The

City and the School District are each contributing \$55,000 for the project.

The consultant is working on the tot slide replacement at the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center, and the hope is to have this project completed by the start of the pool season.

All the below-ground work has been completed on the Red Haddox baseball field project. Dugouts have been built, but the dugouts have no roofs as of this date. The project is still on schedule with a substantial completion date of April 2 to open for the season and play baseball at the field.

A meeting with representatives of athletic groups (stakeholders) will be held on February 24 to learn whether they feel there are any pressing concerns for projects that need to be done. Randy Quale stated that he is not aware of any safety or playability issues.

Approximately \$346,000 remains for other projects from the money received from the State of Minnesota as mitigation for the loss of two youth fields at Beaverbrook Park. The City has earmarked \$200,000 to support the installation of artificial turf at the two Bloomington high schools. This should go a long way to supporting soccer, lacrosse and football programs in our community. There may be a need for a good quality fast pitch softball field for girls on the east side of the City.

There is the possibility of a need to move high school football games from Lincoln Field if the parking lease currently in effect is not extended beyond 2011.

Funding for additional dog parks is not available from the Parks Capital Fund at the present time.

In 2010 there should be approximately \$300,000 in the Parks Capital Fund. Randy Quale stated that if everything that is listed as a Priority 2 in the CIP were to be done, all of the \$300,000 in the Parks Capital Fund would be used. No money was received in 2009 in park dedication fees. Randy Quale emphasized that there is an extensive list of park projects to be undertaken, but funding is very limited. The Commission will make frugal decisions on which projects to propose to the Council, realizing that many projects will need to be deferred.

Kevin Thompson suggested that putting in a dog park at Tretbaugh Park undoubtedly would not cost as much as putting one in at

Smith Park. Perhaps we could undertake the dog park project at Tretbaugh Park now and do the one at Smith Park at a later date.

Regional Park Reserve Master Plan Final Draft Update

Various revisions to the Regional Park Reserve Master Plan draft document are being compiled. The draft plan has been shared with other agencies, neighboring communities, and the public through a January 20 open house. The final plan must be accepted by the City Council, Three Rivers Park District, and the Metropolitan Council. Randy Quale stated that the sections of the draft plan on which Gregg Thompson commented at the last meeting will be reinforced.

In answer to a Commission question on which neighbors reviewed the draft plan, Randy Quale stated that Eden Prairie and Edina were the communities involved.

Park Improvement Projects Update

Randy Quale stated that attempts are being made to wrap up final numbers on athletic field improvement projects. Possible deducts are being reviewed in order to shrink the final budget.

It is hoped that bocce ball court improvements, including screening and installation of roof shade structures, can be done this spring.

City Council Action

The Commission reviewed City Council action pertaining to Parks and Recreation from the study meeting of January 11 and the regular meetings of January 25 and February 1.

Park and Recreation Manager's Report

The Outdoor Refrigerated Ice Rink Study was presented at the February 8 City Council study meeting. Council acknowledged receipt of the study, thereby completing the work of the consultant, HTG Architects. Parks and Recreation staff will follow up on addressing questions raised at the meeting and will bring back answers to Council later in the spring.

Randy Quale informed the Commission that the City Council had asked about a possible effect on the Bloomington Ice Garden revenues if the City were to install outdoor sheets of ice at park sites.

The annual Winter Fete celebration took place January 29-31. Just under 300 people participated in the Pond Dakota Winter History Festival on Sunday, and all seemed to enjoy the dog sled rides and many other activities. Gate admissions for that event paid for almost all of it. The Family Chill Out on Saturday was a little off in attendance from 2009 with about 75 people taking part, but a good time was had by all. Data from the other Winter Fete events,

including the broomball tournament and Mite Hockey tournaments, is being compiled.

Staff is planning to meet with representatives of the Bloomington Fine Arts Council (BFAC) and the Bloomington Theater and Arts Center (BTAC) the week of February 15 to clarify each group's positions and concerns before the issue goes to the City Council.

Federal Transportation Project Solicitation Update – This past summer, the City submitted five Bloomington applications for projects to be constructed in 2013 and 2014. The Three Rivers Park District submitted one application for a project in Bloomington. All applications have been scored and ranked, and funding recommendations are being considered by the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB).

The following is a summary of status of projects within Bloomington based on the recommendation sent to TAB:

1) *Applicant:* Three Rivers Park District; *Project Description* - Intercity Trail – Old Cedar to Lake Nokomis; *Federal \$* - \$5,500,000; *Local \$* - \$1,375,000; *Total \$* - \$6,875,000; *Likelihood of Funding* – Very High

2) *Applicant:* City of Bloomington; *Project Description* - Airport South ITS – Changeable Message Boards; *Federal \$* - \$1,020,000; *Local \$* - \$255,000; *Total \$* - \$1,275,000; *Likelihood of Funding* – Very High

3) *Applicant:* City of Bloomington; *Project Description* – Hyland Trail Corridor – Hyland Park to MN River; *Federal \$* - \$519,000; *Local \$* - \$129,750; *Total \$* - \$648,750; *Likelihood of Funding* – Very High

4) *Applicant:* City of Bloomington; *Project Description* – Normandale Reconstruction – Creek to 94<sup>th</sup>; *Federal \$* - \$5,580,000; *Local \$* - \$1,395,000; *Total \$* - \$6,975,000; *Likelihood of Funding* – High

5) *Applicant:* City of Bloomington; *Project Description* – Normandale/W 84<sup>th</sup> St. Intersection Improvements; *Federal \$* - \$7,000,000; *Local \$* - \$12,300,000; *Total \$* - \$19,300,000; *Likelihood of Funding* – Low

6) *Applicant:* City of Bloomington; *Project Description* – Intercity Trail – Bloomington Segment Only; *Federal \$* - \$840,000; *Local \$* - \$210,000; *Total \$* - \$1,050,000; *Likelihood of Funding* – Low

In summary, it is likely that projects in Bloomington will be awarded approximately \$12.6 million in Federal dollars for projects to be constructed in 2013 and 2014. Final action awarding these grants is expected by March 1, 2010.

The garage on City property at 7415 Izaak Walton Road is in poor condition and will be demolished by this spring. At the time the garage is removed staff will evaluate whether any storm water management, such as a rain garden, should occur on this property.

Gordie Holm asked about plans for the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge, and Randy Quale informed him that the only option the City Council has said would be considered, assuming funds were available, would be to replace the bridge rather than to renovate it.

Dan Wallerus left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Other Business

Dave Schulze and Rachel Berkowitz plan to attend the workshop entitled “Redevelopment and Water Resources: Revitalizing Your Community with Green Infrastructure” at the Science Museum of Minnesota on February 27. This workshop is for communities in the Minnehaha Creek and Nine Mile Creek Watershed Districts. Rachel Berkowitz will report on the workshop at the next Commission meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Gregg Thompson, second by Kevin Thompson *to approve the minutes of January 13*. Motion carried 5-0, with Gordie Holm abstaining from the vote since he was not yet a member of the Commission at the time of the January 13 meeting.

The February 24 study meeting has been cancelled due to a lack of pressing business. The next Commission meeting will be on March 10.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Cooper  
Recording Secretary