

City of Scandia Parks and Recreation Committee
Monday, April 3, 2017

Members Present: Terry Gorham (Vice Chair), Dustin Hegland, Jodi Feldmann, Sue Rodsjo, and Jim Schneider

Members Absent: Ryan Jinks (Chair)

Staff Present: Judi Negus (Office Assistant) and Adam Hawkinson (Public Works Director)

Guests Present: Catherine Michel, Amy Erickson, and Bob Wolf representing Wild River Fitness

Vice Chair Gorham called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were no comments.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Feldmann, seconded by Rodsjo, to approve the agenda. The motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Hegland, seconded by Feldmann, to approve the March 6, 2017 minutes. The motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS

Vice Chair Report

Gorham provided a written report and reviewed the report with Committee members. Gorham informed he did not attend the Capital Improvement Committee meeting held March 28.

City Administrator Report

Administrator Soltis provided a written staff report and financial reports that were reviewed by the Committee.

Hawkinson plans to seek a contractor to complete repairs of the bleachers at the Wayne Erickson ball field. It was clarified that improvements at Lilleskogen are to be 100% funded through grants and donations. Rodsjo questioned if the City would be open to matching grants. Schneider suggested grants could be applied for City Council consideration.

Public Works Director Report

Hawkinson reviewed the written report he provided to the Committee. Hawkinson informed the Sentence to Service participants will be completing brush cleaning at Lilleskogen. Hawkinson shared the part-time seasonal maintenance staff will begin working in May.

Hawkinson also shared a handout with an estimate for costs for trails. Rodsjo questioned who was responsible for the bike trail on Highway 95. Schneider informed it is the Department of Transportation's responsibility and it is unlikely the State would make any improvements to the trail.

OLD BUSINESS

Park Capital Improvement Plan

Gorham expressed the need to have Committee members volunteer to take on lead roles for projects identified in the Park Capital Improvement plan. Committee members agreed to review the Lilleskogen park plan at next month's meeting to determine if there should be updates to the plan.

Park Budget Planning

Gorham noted there was discussion earlier regarding the budget.

Review PRC Operating Calendar

Gorham reviewed the calendar and noted the Committee will be making preliminary plans for Taco Daze at its May meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Hockey Rink Signage

Hegland recommended advertising on the rink boards as a source of revenue. Rodsjo suggested sign requirements and limiting the number of signs. Hegland agreed to research other signs, materials, and costs.

Concession Sales at Community Center

The Committee discussed the possibility of vending machines at the warming house. Hegland agreed to check out the vending machines in Forest Lake and Feldmann agreed to research as well. The Committee also suggested the Ice Rink Attendants could operate a concession stand in the warming house during the winter months to sell pre-packaged snacks. Hawkinson suggested the Scandia-Marine Lions or the Boy Scouts could sell snacks during the summer months.

Senior Recreation Programs-Wild River Fitness

Catherine Michel of Wild River Fitness approached the Committee. Michel shared they currently have 25-30 participants in their senior programs in Osceola. The programs vary from exercises in a sitting position to strenuous exercises and everything in-between. They also provide health care/educational programs for seniors. Michel suggested the Committee determine what the community would like to see in senior programming.

Bob Wolf approached the Committee and suggested the Committee have focus groups determine what the senior community wants. Rodsjo questioned if programs could be offered to other age groups. Wolf suggested a trial offering two classes for seniors and one class for a different age group. Programming could be expanded if the need exists.

The Committee questioned availability of equipment, which depends on the programs offered. Amy Erickson shared it would be ideal to get funding for equipment and store the equipment at the Community Center. Schneider questioned the cost for instructors. Erickson informed the rate is \$50 per hour, but would consider reducing the cost to \$35 per hour for the City. Registration could go through Wild River Fitness or the City. Wild River Fitness's liability would not cover participants if the programs are held at the Community Center. Some programs include Silver Sneakers, Zumba, and Pound (a drumstick class). Committee members were encouraged to visit the website for more details.

Gorham agreed to take a lead role in pursuing to offer senior recreation programs and will contact the Lions to arrange a focus group discussion.

Safe Routes to School Presentation

Rodsjo provided background of the three trails projects she identified at last month's meeting, which included: the Department of Transportation's SRTS program, Legacy Funding (Lindstrom/Chisago Swedish Heritage Trail system) and the Gateway Trail system. Rodsjo reached out to all three organizations. A representative from the Gateway Trail is open to presenting to the Committee at a future meeting. The Swedish Heritage Trail is through the County. Legacy Funding is for regional trails and not city trails.

Rodsjo shared a presentation on the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant. The program benefits include improving health, safety and transportation. It was not clear if the grant would cover 100% of the expenses. Rodsjo suggested Ryan Goodman of Bolton & Menk could come to a future meeting to discuss the Safe Routes to School plans that were completed in the Forest Lake school district. Negus suggested working with Scandia Elementary to determine the need for the program and informed enrollment has decreased since March 2011 when the SRTS survey was completed. Committee members reviewed the survey results from March 2011. Rodsjo agreed to obtain current student enrollment at Scandia Elementary. Rodsjo will ask Goodman to waive the cost to attend the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting to present. Rodsjo offered to take a lead role in the SRTS program. Rodsjo offered to contact the DNR to present updates to the Gateway Trail system at a future meeting.

Hawkinson asked the Committee to review the summary of City-owned parcels not being utilized as parks that was provided by Soltis. The parcels for consideration are located on Orwell Avenue North, Orwell Circle, and Odell Avenue North. Committee members agreed it would be beneficial to visit each of these sites.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

The proposed agenda for the May 1, 2017 meeting:

1. Veterans Memorial Update
2. Taco Daze Preliminary Planning
3. Lilleskogen Park Plan Review
4. Hockey Rink Follow-up and Concessions
5. Potential Bolton & Menk Presentation for SRTS

Negus reminded Committee members that any documentation to be included in the meeting materials should be provided to her 10 calendar days before a meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hegland, seconded by Rodsjo, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Negus
Office Assistant