



**City of Jordan
Park and Recreation Commission
January 25, 2010**

Members Present: Chair Jerry Langsweirdt; Vice Chair Donna Breeggemann; Mayor Pete Ewals, Margaret Knutson; Thom Boncher; Tim Bischke; and John Glynn.

Staff Present: Senior Planner, Joe Janish; Planning Consultant, Joanne Foust.

Others Present: Belle Plaine Planner Andy Villella; City of Carver Recreation Director Kristy Mock; City of New Prague Planning Director Ken Ondich; Ron Jabs

1.0 Call to Order.

Chair Langsweirdt called the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:02pm.

2.0 Adopt Agenda.

Motion Breeggemann seconded by Glynn to adopt agenda as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

3.0 Approval of Minutes.

A. November 23, 2010 Minutes

*Motion Breeggemann, seconded by Glynn to approve the November 23, 2010 Minutes.
Motion unanimously approved.*

4.0 Presentations/Discussions.

A. Master Park and Trail Plan Guest Speakers (Item conducted at 7:00 p.m.)

Foust welcomed those present and noted the Jordan Park & Recreation Advisory Commission is in the initial stages of developing a Master Park & Trail Plan. The process is being funded through a Community Growth Options Grant (CGO) through 1000 Friends of MN and the McKnight Foundation. Throughout 2010 the Commission will be meeting on a monthly basis and seeking public input for future park, trail, recreation and natural resource plans.

As a first step in the process the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission is seeking input from local, county, state and federal park and recreation agencies to learn more about their programs and how the City can work in cooperation with the groups. Foust introduced the panel of speakers; Andy Villella- Planner with the City of Belle Plaine, Kristy Mock with the City of Carver and Ken Ondich with the City of New Prague.

Belle Plaine

Andy Villella provided an overview of the Belle Plaine Park system and future and proposed trails. Mr. Villella did discuss a future athletic complex the City of Belle Plaine is working on but is running into concerns on funding, when exactly to build the structures. Currently the Belle Plaine City Council allows for about \$22,000 into funding for the park system per year from the general fund.

Mr. Villella also commented that the City of Belle Plaine does have some existing trails but does not have actual bike lanes or routes through the city. However some of the items that the city had looked at previously to implement the routes included: elimination of current on-street parking; reconfiguration of roadways; feasibility of trails; functionality of the trails since the recreation and transportation aspects could conflict. Connectivity of with existing trails; Plan for connectivity; finding a balance between balance of safety and efficiency; if the bike routes are meant to be destination and/or accessibility.

Commissioners questioned about access to parks for those with disabilities; and how often the city uses volunteers to complete projects; and what agency is responsible for recreation programs.

Mr. Villella noted that some parks have been utilizing materials that are meant to provide those in wheelchairs access to the equipment and volunteers have been utilized in some projects with supervision of the Public Works Director and also consulting with the City's insurance provider. Mr. Villella indicated that the school district is responsible for the recreation activities.

Carver

Kristy Mock indicated that Carver County received a grant from Blue Shield/Blue Cross to attempt to reduce obesity by providing activities for individuals. Carver currently has not addressed bike routes or bike lanes through the community and it is not currently on the radar screen. Kristy noted issues in Carver that are currently making it difficult to use sidewalks because of obstacles, such as not having pedestrian ramps or having too narrow of sidewalks. Carver has also experienced difficulty in providing signage for the trails in order to encourage usage, and with the slopes in the community it also can be difficult to meet ADA standards when designing trails throughout the community.

Kristy noted that Carver would like to continue to provide shorter walking distances between sidewalks when crossing streets, increase parking for bicycles, and also provide lighting over the sidewalks and not over the streets in order to encourage more individuals to walk and bike in the community.

Commissioners questioned if vandalism has been an issue with the Carver Skate Park; how much if any money is provided by the City.

Kristy noted that the Skate Park has not seen much for vandalism but is also located at two rather busy roadways which has high visibility. The Park and Recreation Department has about \$90,000 to \$100,000 a year to run the full department which includes salaries, and program fees.

New Prague

Ken Ondich, Planning Director for the City of New Prague, provided an overview of the facilities within New Prague. Mr. Ondich indicated that New Prague is not part of the Met Council and is in a different MNDOT District which has allowed a little easier access to some funds that are available to communities for park improvements and trails, because of the competition level and population counts of other communities. New Prague's general levy allows for about \$20,000 a year for park projects and current staff searches for grants rather extensively. Mr. Ondich noted that the City of New Prague has not looked into bike routes or bike lanes. The School District is responsible for the recreation programs. Mr. Ondich noted that New Prague is looking at revising their Parkland Dedication requirements based on formula's provided by the League of Minnesota Cities along with estimated population numbers.

Commissioners questioned if the community utilizes volunteers for projects. Mr. Ondich noted that the City has an adopt a park program in which individuals and organizations volunteer to help clean the parks from May through September and also sign waiver forms.

5.0 Old Business.

A. Project/Discussion Update.

Mr. Janish provided an update on past projects. Discussion occurred about looking into possibly moving the skate park equipment to Lions Park and Staff was directed to bring forward a sketch at an upcoming meeting of possible locations at Lions Park.

Commissioner Glynn questioned if it would be appropriate to make a motion to name the park area located at Juergens Circle and Rustle Road to Juergens Triangle. Members agreed that would be appropriate.

Motion Glynn seconded by Boncher to recommend naming the above identified property to Juergens Triangle but to not place a sign on the property. Motion unanimously approved.

Commissioners discussed including a start date and project completion date for the items located on the update list and asked staff to include the timeline for new items added to the list.

Commissioners also questioned if it would be possible to invite the Brenda Lieske to future meetings and to provide an update of what individuals are enrolling in for the recreation activities.

6.0 New Business.

A. Strategic Planning Discussion.

Janish noted that other commissions are working with the City Administrator and it would be appropriate for the Park and Recreation Commission to consider also working with the Administrator to develop a strategic plan as it pertains to parks and recreation within the city.

Commissioners questioned if it would be possible to see the information the Council developed and to have a review of what the Comprehensive Plan includes for the Parks Chapter prior to working on developing the strategic plan.

B. Interviews

Park and Recreation Commissioners interviewed Margaret Knutson to be re-appointed.

Motion Boncher seconded by Breeggemann to recommend to the mayor to re-appoint Margaret Knutson to the Park and Recreation Commission. Motion unanimously approved.

7.0 Planners Report.

No items were reported.

8.0 Commissioner Report.

Chair Langsweirdt indicated that he will not be seeking re-appointment.

Commissioner Bischke noted he would also not be seeking re-appointment but intends on getting involved more with complete streets at a County and State level.

9.0 Adjournment.

Motion Breeggemann, seconded by Knutson, to adjourn the Park and Recreation Commission meeting at 9:23 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Janish
Senior Planner