



**City of Jordan
Park and Recreation Commission
May 23, 2011**

Members Present: Chair Donna Breeggemann, Council Liaison Thom Boncher, Margaret Knutson, Tim Bischke, David Hanson

Staff Present: Senior Planner Joe Janish

Others Present: John Stahler, Gary Schettl, Julie Bischke, Kathy Colling Jamie Pauly, Susan Brunes, Doug Kelly, Jeannette Lalin, Larry Lalin, Jes Maria Schwingler, Carole Cole, Joe Thill, Dawn Benko, Therese Miller, Mike Miller.

1.0 Call to Order.

Chair Breeggemann called the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:00pm.

2.0 Adopt Agenda.

Janish noted the Park and Recreation Commission may want to move the Memorial Bench Program (item 6.0 A) after the East Side Trail Gap Discussion. Janish also noted he had additional information related to recycle containers at the park.

Motion Boncher, seconded Hanson, to approve the amended agenda. Motion approved unanimously.

3.0 Approval of Minutes.

A. April 25, 2011 Minutes

Motion Boncher seconded Knutson to approve the minutes with noted changes which included Correction to Chair Breeggemann's title and clarification on wording. Motion approved unanimously.

4.0 Presentations/Discussions.

A. East Trail Gap

Janish stated at the last Park and Recreation Commission meeting discussion occurred about a possible trail providing a connection between the "upper bluffs" to the downtown area. During that meeting the Park and Recreation Commission directed staff to send notices to individuals within the area to tonight's meeting. Janish noted that it was staff's understanding tonight's meeting was to find out an interest level in pursuing a study to analyze potential alignments. Janish further stated that the City Engineer has indicated that a study of alternatives would not

exceed \$2,500 for two options and if a third option is included the estimated cost would be \$3,750. Janish also noted if the Park and Recreation Commission made a positive recommendation to the City Council and Council approved the study it would be completed in about 60 to 90 days.

Janish noted that the area in question had been identified in both the Comprehensive Plan and Master Park and Trail Plan. The City has been working over the last year to analyze the gaps for possible connections. This study, if conducted, could potentially complete the gap.

Chair Breeggemann questioned if individuals would like to speak on this topic.

Therese Miller questioned what would be constructed if it would be a sidewalk, trail and what the width would be.

Chair Breeggemann noted that the improvement has not been selected at this point.

Kathy Colling indicated a Maple Lane alignment would not be appropriate due to the remote location. Colling noted the roadway had been closed due to issues in the past of partying, and folks have used the area as a restroom. Colling also noted if a path is constructed snowmobiles would utilize the trail as a path to get up Highway 282.

Julie Bischke indicated she believed a trail along Highway 282 would be the best option because it provides the least disruptive option to property owners and during a recent walk she thought it was a feasible option.

Carole Cole stated she too is concerned for the safety of individuals who would utilize a trail and thought that an alignment along Highway 282 would be the best option.

John Stahler indicated he would prefer a Highway 282 option but any option should provide a fenced in or concrete barrier to make it safe for individuals.

Dawn Benko indicated that the city should also look at lowering the speed limit to 30 mph until the top of the hill. Benko also noted there are about 81 children under the age of 18 and she personally would not be comfortable walking down 282 with children and safety would be an important item with any alignment.

Therese Miller stated speeds are too fast along Highway 282 and some type of separation would have to be provided if a Highway 282 alignment was selected.

John Stahler questioned if the City had contacted the developer. Janish noted that the same notice the residents received was sent to the developer.

Jamie Pauly indicated the East Street option would remove trees along a bluff and could destabilize the bluff area. The City of Jordan should focus on the other two options which provides the most benefits when looking at accessibility, safety, and distance.

George Colling indicated the access point between Maple Lane and the development was designed to be an emergency access and not a trail or walkway.

Commissioner Bischke stated if the trial was done correctly it would be a community wide trail and not necessarily just for the residents in the neighborhoods.

George Colling also noted that the City should look at providing a park in the area and some land is already owned by the City of Jordan which could be developed.

Commissioner Bischke stated that neither option necessarily appears as the best alternative. MNDOT had made some upgrades within the area related to drainage. Perhaps the study completed should also include areas not yet mentioned and engineering may find something when reviewing the area.

Motion Hanson, seconded Boncher to authorize the City Engineer to study the Highway 282 and Maple Lane ROW alternatives for an amount not to exceed \$2,500.

Commissioner Bischke indicated he would like to see the motion include the East Street Option because it would provide factual information for the elimination of the route.

A resident commented that the topography is too great and erosion issues could occur due to a trail in the East Street area, and suggested perhaps a trail could be constructed on the North side of Highway 282.

George Colling commented that the City of Jordan city limits end at the ROW of Highway 282.

Motion approved 4 to 1 (Bischke opposed).

5.0 Old Business.

A. Interview Process

Janish noted that the staff write-up included the same information the Planning Commission has been reviewing and developing for their members application. Janish noted the Planning Commission started with providing a list of what the duties are of a commissioner and then created questions and requirements they felt had been appropriate. Janish noted the Planning Commission is still reviewing the application and the City Council has not approved the information provided.

Commissioners discussed if it would be appropriate to allow for a resident from a township to serve on the Commission. Janish noted current code would allow for this, if the City Council believes the resident from the township would be beneficial. Commissioners questioned the ability of an individual from outside city limits potentially voting on something that could impact taxes within the community.

Members thought they would review longer and continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Motion Knutson, seconded Hanson to table the item until the next meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

B. Project Updates

Park and Recreation Commission members reviewed the project updates.

6.0 New Business.

A. Memorial Bench Program – Possible Location

Janish indicated the staff report has a map with possible locations ranked in preferred order by the applicant. Janish noted the applicant is responsible for the costs associated with the purchase, and installation of the bench.

Commissioner Knutson questioned why the Park and Recreation Commission would want to have the bench in another location besides the applicants first choice. No members indicated a desire to have the memorial bench located in another location.

Motion Knutson, seconded Boncher to allow for the applicant to place the memorial bench in the preferred location (SE corner of Mill Pond next to the swimming beach). Motion approved unanimously.

B. Holzer Park Restrooms

Janish indicated that he had been contacted by Council Liaison Boncher to add this item to the agenda. Boncher toured the restrooms at Holzer Park and provided some photos that members reviewed. Members discussed the idea of making improvements to the restrooms and thought a tour of the Lagoon Park Bathrooms and Holzer Park bathrooms would be appropriate.

Staff was directed to schedule a workshop at 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. for a tour of Holzer Park Bathrooms and the Lagoon Park bathrooms prior to the start of next month's meeting.

C. Cannon Dedication

Janish noted the Cannon is back and the Park and Recreation Commission discussed a possible re-dedication of the Cannon. Janish also noted during discussions with the local Newspaper Editor Mathias Baden, it was discovered an article would be in next week's paper discussing the history of the cannon.

Members discussed if it would be appropriate to hold a special event for the re-dedication or to include the re-dedication as part of another event. Members noted it may be appropriate to include an event as part of Heimatfest. Park and Recreation Commissioners noted staff should discuss this option with the Heimatfest committee to see if it is workable.

D. Recycle Containers

Members discussed the two options for recycling containers and noted they thought a three inch opening may be too small to handle recycling products, and a larger opening should be sought out.

7.0 Planners Report.

A. PEI and Parkland Dedication Account Information

Park and Recreation Commissioners acknowledged the report.

8.0 Commissioner Report.

Knutson questioned how the groundbreaking ceremony went for the new basketball court in Bridle Creek. Hanson noted that he would have liked to see more donors attend the groundbreaking and only a few folks showed up for the event.

Bischke indicated that St. Bonifacius recently received a pedestrian crossing over Highway 7 and would be willing to travel up to the area with anyone interested in viewing the crossing. Bischke also noted that the Park and Recreation Commission should keep options open in the future for studies and not eliminate them prior to the studies completion. Bischke also noted the Park and Recreation Commission may want to establish procedures when seeking public comments. The Planning Commission allowed for individuals to speak and the comments from the public would be closed while the commission discusses items. Bischke suggested in the future residents are not allowed to speak between a motion and vote.

Breeggemann noted that the baseboard around the backstop at Holzer Park needs some work. The area along the ground has some boards that are rotting out.

9.0 Adjournment.

Motion Boncher, seconded Bischke to adjourn the Park and Recreation Commission meeting at 9:50 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Janish
Senior Planner