



**CITY OF JORDAN
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2007

**JORDAN GOVERNMENT CENTER
210 E. 1st St.
Jordan, MN 55352
Council Chambers**

Ron Beckman, Chair
Jerry Langsweirdt,
Vice Chair
Tania Branitski
Donna Breeggemann
Tim Bischke
Chris Schwingler
Willy Pauly

Ron Jabs, Mayor and
Council
representative

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by Chair Ron Beckman.

Commissioners attending the meeting were Mayor Ron Jabs, Chair Ron Beckman, Tania Branitski, Donna Breeggemann, Jerry Langsweirdt, and Willy Pauly.

Staff in attendance: Public Works Director Dave Bendzick, Senior Planner Joe Janish, and Planner Casey MacCallum.

Also in attendance: Katie Altenburg and three other residents not named.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: *Motion by Jerry Langsweirdt, seconded by Donna Breeggemann, to accept the July 23, 2007 regular meeting minutes with typo corrections. Motion unanimously approved.*

PRESENTATIONS: There were no presentations.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Portable Bathrooms.

In May of this year the Park and Recreation Commission decided to place a portable bathroom in Bridle Creek Park to determine if a need exists for the facility. This item was brought forward to the Park and Recreation Commission by Katie Altenburg who expressed concern with the difficulty of trying to gather kids together when one child needs to use the restroom.

When staff contacted the vendor for the restroom it was determined the vendor would like to have the restroom within 25 feet of the street. Public Works Director Bendzick and Senior Planner Janish determined that the location of the portable bathroom should be further than 25 feet. After Public Works Director Bendzick spoke to the vendor it was agreed they would be able to drive over the curb to clean the restroom.

Once the restroom was installed staff was contacted by an individual, near the park, who questioned why they were not informed of the bathroom and requested a letter be sent to the neighborhood. The letter was dated July 20, 2007 and is included in your packet.

Several comments were received:

- Concerns over appearance have been expressed.
- It was a great idea and hopes it stays.
- People removing the bathroom from its spot for personal use.

- Don't think it is needed.
- Don't think it is something the City needs to provide.
- Doesn't look nice.
- Kids are playing in the bathroom.
- Random vehicles stopping to use the bathroom, leading to safety concerns with children.
- It is an eyesore.
- Concerned over odors.
- Other cities do not have bathrooms in neighborhood parks.
- Possible to move to a different location?

Some of the items mentioned by residents could potentially be addressed such as the appearance of the bathroom. The placement of the bathroom is somewhat limited due to the cleaning and pumping of the unit. This means if an alternative site is selected the unit may not be able to be any further from the roadway. If the Park and Recreation Commission recalls on April 24, 2006 the park and recreation addressed a request for placement of a portable bathroom within the Bridle Creek Park and staff brought forward information on how to "dress" up the restrooms. Staff has attached an example from the 2006 meeting. It would also be possible to add additional trees to help screen the restroom in addition to the enclosure.

The concern of residents possibly moving the unit to their property could be limited by pouring a concrete slab and attaching the portable bathroom to the slab. Also if an enclosure is built it may make it more difficult for residents to use the restroom. However the concern of people stopping at the park to use it could not be prevented. The park is a public place and the city is not able to limit who can and cannot utilize the facilities.

The concern of odors could possibly be limited with additional cleanings. Currently the portable bathroom is cleaned every Monday and staff received an additional cleaning charge estimate of \$75 per additional cleaning.

Katie Altenburg discussed how National Night Out had the largest turnout since the development was platted; expressed appreciation for conducting the portable bathroom test; was glad to see community involvement; at her former residence (Maple Grove) all five parks she visited had portable bathrooms; and it was nice to have bathrooms for kids, which resulted in increasing activities and time spent at the park.

Other members in the audience expressed problems with the odors in his house from the bathrooms; kids playing in the bathroom; and random vehicles that neighbors had not seen before were stopping to use the bathroom and that it was unsightly.

Member Tania sought a compromise with less months of use.

Others suggested planting more trees around the bathroom.

Ron Jabs made several comments: he considered this park open space for the neighborhood with little to no further major developments or enhancements in regards to soccer or ball fields. That the more money spent on existing parks the less will be available for a planned

regional park only a few miles from Bridle Creek. Jabs also noted the Holzer bathrooms are usually locked and is concerned about placing a bathroom in front of houses, safety of residents in regards to increasing the numbers of strangers, children playing in the bathroom is a parental problem. He also stated that he has serious reservations investing so much in current parks as the City grows because it would limit the future of the parks system

Beckman suggested letting the test run out and discuss placing a permanent bathroom or constructing a base for a portable one with more trees at a future meeting. There was no motion so the test stands as it is and will end at the time that was originally determined.

NEW BUSINESS: There were three items of new business.

- A. Timberline Park.** Staff received a request to improve the Timberline Park from the Timberline Homeowners Association. Attached is a list of improvements the Association is requesting. The Association will contribute \$1,500 to these improvements and is looking for a match donation.

Public Works Director Dave Bendzick was present to discuss these improvements and the City requests guidance as to whether the proposed gazebo and improvements to Timberline Park are acceptable. If the Park and Recreation Commission supports this request funds would come from the Park Equipment Improvement Fund (PEI).

Chair Beckman suggested the gazebo be a continuing element in all of Jordan's Parks and also sets a standard for future parks.

Dave Bendzick agrees with the use of a gazebo as a feature in every park but questioned if we are constructing this for daycare. Steel gazebos require little maintenance.

Member Breeggemann said that the development had a lot of 5 to 8 year olds.

Members Pauly, Beckmann and Breeggemann discussed building a half basket ball court in Timberline Park for the cohort that is getting to be teenagers.

The commission directed Public Works Director Bendzick to return to the next meeting with costs for several gazebos.

- B. Additional Skate Park Equipment Discussion.** When the skate park was original designed and funded the Park and Recreation Commission discussed all the possible options. It was determined if the existing park and additional pieces were constructed it would be too costly. At that time the Park and Recreation Commission decided to move forward and construct the existing park and wait on additional pieces. By waiting on the construction of additional pieces it was determined the Park and Recreation Commission would not only save on costs but could also add to the "newness" of the park by adding additional equipment in the future. It was also discussed that by adding pieces later it could serve as an incentive to be sure vandalism is not occurring at the park.

According to Chief Malz the skate park has not necessarily increased the vandalism at the park but as our population increases vandalism may also arise, and did not believe an increase has occurred due to the skate equipment.

One piece the Park and Recreation can install in the future is a half-pipe. The current park was designed in order to add the half pake with relative ease. Charles Bauer contacted staff and requested the City consider adding more features and if it is possible for him to fund-raise money for those items.

Chair Beckman stated his displeasure with the amount of vandalism and graffiti at the Skate Park and the Mini Met. One day after volunteer painted the wall at the Mini Met there were skate and bike marks on it. Restated that bikes were expressly prohibited from the park and it should be taken away.

Commissioner Pauly directed the City to take down the sign at the Skate Park because of Vandalism and profanities.

- C. Adopt-A-Park.** At a previous Parks and Recreation Meeting Member Breeggemann requested staff to research establishing an Adopt-A-Park program. Most programs are administrative and only request a spring and a fall cleanup from the participants, though usually get more help. The costs to the City include minor staff time, gloves and bags when requested, and minor equipment and materials.

State statutes require that any Adopt-A-Park programs are only supplemental not replacing or decreasing staff time and employment.

The Commission agreed and discussed marketing, Adopt-A-Garden and recognition for volunteers. Staff will return to the next meeting with regulations for the Adopt-A-Park program.

D.

PLANNER'S REPORT: There were three items on the Planner's Report.

A. Accounts. As of the end of July 2007 the Parkland Dedication account had \$557,050.31 and the Park Equipment Improvement account has \$113,117.55.

B. Meeting with Scott County. Planner Casey MacCallum told the Commission that a member of Scott County's Parks Department was planning on joining the Commission at their next meeting.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

The Commission discussed purchasing a small zamboni for the hockey rink; the weeds at Holzer Park being contained, the new sprinkler and the state of the bleachers; Paving the parking lot across the trail from the Mini Met; and the potential for Frisbee golf.

Commissioner Branitski presented eight points that were email to her: park survey, “lagoon” is an ugly name, mural on bathroom, posts need to be replaced along Park Drive, playground equipment at lagoon park is old, with decrease in the Mill Pond bid use the difference for a pier, questioned the Industrial sign, and plant additional trees in Lagoon Park to have different ages of trees.

ADJOURN: *Motion by Donna Breeggemann , seconded by Willy Paully, to adjourn at 9:16p.m. Motion unanimously approved.*

Respectfully submitted,

Casey MacCallum
Planner