



**City of Jordan  
Park and Recreation Commission  
November 23, 2009**

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

**Staff Present:** Senior Planner, Joe Janish; Public Works Director, Dave Bendzick; City Engineer, Carol Caron; Planning Consultant, Joanne Foust.

**Others Present:** Park Program Manager for Scott County Mark Themig, Scott County Planner Andy Hingeveld, Operations Supervisor for the MN Valley State Park-DNR Tamara Simonich, Deputy Refuge Manager with the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge & Wetland Management District with the US Fish and Wildlife Service Jeanne Holler, Belle Plaine City Planner Andy Villella, Ron Jabs, Herb Baldwin of JAVA, Guy Beck, Julie Bischke, Jordan EDA member Ray Sandey and Jordan Planning Commissioners John Watkins and Terry Jeffrey,

**1.0 Call to Order.**

*Chair Langsweirdt called the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 6:03pm.*

**2.0 Adopt Agenda.**

*Motion Bischke seconded by Breeggemann to adopt agenda as amended. Motion approved unanimously.*

**3.0 Approval of Minutes.**

**A. October 26, 2009 Minutes**

*Motion Breeggemann, seconded by Bischke to approve the October 26, 2009 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 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; Mark

Themig- Park Program Manager with Scott County, Jeanne Holler- Deputy Refuge & Wetland Management District with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Tamara Simonich- Operations Supervisor with the MN Valley State Recreation Area in Jordan.

**Scott County:** Mark Themig provided an overview of Scott County's Parks, Trails and Recreation Plans. He provided a history from 1967 through the 2009 Park and Trail Chapter of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

Scott County is one of ten Regional Park Implementing Agencies coordinated by the Met Council. Scott County is also served by the Three Rivers Park District. The county has four regional parks; Spring Lake, Cedar Lake Farm, Doyle-Kennefick and Cleary Lake and two park reserves; Murphy-Hanrehan and Blakeley Bluffs (future).

Themig described the framework for the Scott County Park and Trail plan including active living concepts and sustainability of green infrastructure.

Future park reserves were highlighted including 2000+ acres in the Blakely area. Themig noted there is also a study area northeast of Jordan for a potential future regional park area. The county is looking at other regional systems in the area, including the Ney Nature Center east of Henderson, the Savage Environmental Learning Center, the DNR and US Fish and Wildlife areas to avoid duplication.

An overview of existing, planned and proposed trail systems were reviewed. Themig noted that Jordan is the "hub" for several proposed regional trail linkages.

A summary of system costs for acquisition of park and trail land, operation and maintenance of Scott County's park and trail systems was provided. Themig noted that Scott County's budget is comparable to Anoka and Dakota Counties.

2010 Park and Trail plans were discussed. These include a park system plan, possibly including a Master Plan for Cedar Lake Farm Park, A Master Plan for Blakely Bluffs Park Reserve acquisition, A Trail GAP Analysis, North Scott County Regional Trail System Plan, and the first phase of Spring Lake Regional Park Development. Themig also noted the county is reviewing the organizational structure for parks and trails in the future. Themig invited Jordan representatives to provide input in the county's planning process.

**MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge & Wetland Management District –US Fish & Wildlife Service.** Jeanne Holler, Deputy Refuge Manager, explained that the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge is a network of lands across the US and US Territories dedicated to wildlife conservation. There are 545 national wildlife refuges, with at least one per state. US Fish and Wildlife Service is a federal agency which focuses on wildlife that traverses between states.

There are 13 national wildlife refuges in Minnesota and five wetland management districts. Holler noted that the MN Valley National Wildlife refuge was born out of citizen concern.

Holler stated the Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center is located approximately 4 miles north of Jordan along County Road 9/ Carver County Road 45. This is part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge's Rapids Lake Unit, which is 1480 acres. It includes wildlife observation and photography, four miles of hiking trails, hunting of deer, waterfowl and small game and fishing. Challenges the refuge faces include competing uses, complex ownership, invasive species, arson and vandalism, facility maintenance and land management.

Future plans may include potential acquisition of additional land along the MN River Valley, depending on the willingness of sellers.

**MN Valley State Park.** Tamara Simonich, Operations Supervisor, referenced a map of the state park, which is located between Jordan and Belle Plaine, on Township Road 57. She noted the 35 rustic campsites are getting busier within the St. Lawrence Unit. Hunting is allowed within the St. Lawrence unit only by special permit. Hunting is allowed within the Lake area.

A paved trail exists between Shakopee to Chaska. The trail from Chaska to Belle Plaine is natural surface. Users include horseback riders, mountain bikers, and hikers along this 22-mile trail which extends along the Minnesota River.

Simonich noted there is funding through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Constitutional Amendment which provides opportunities to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for game, fish, and wildlife; to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater, with at least 5% of the fund spent to protect drinking water sources; and for arts, arts education, and arts access, and to preserve Minnesota's history and cultural heritage.

**Question and Answer.**

Discussion occurred relating to inclusion of uses such as a dog park, Frisbee park, etc. in state and regional park land. It was noted this could be possible through a joint powers agreement on sale of land but would not be acceptable uses on a wildlife refuge.

The Park and Recreation Advisory Commission expressed a desire to coordinate park, recreation and trail planning with the county, DRN and US Fish and Wildlife. All parties expressed a willingness to work cooperatively to further regional efforts.

At the January 25, 2010 meeting, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board will be hosting a meeting with staff from the cities of Belle Plaine, Carver, New Prague and Prior Lake to learn more about their park and trail plans and ways the communities can work together. It was noted that the more partnerships that are built to develop parks and trails with a significant regional impact, the higher the ranking grant applications receive.

**5.0 Old Business.**

**A. Park Shelter Rentals.**

Commissioners reviewed the policy and a discussion occurred about charging residents for the rental of shelters.

*Motion Bischke seconded by Boncher to approve the rental park shelter policy as presented. Motion approved 6 to 1. Glynn opposed.*

**B. Basketball Court.**

Commissioners expressed concern with the estimates that had been received and requested staff to obtain revised numbers for a half court.

**C. Project/Discussion Update.**

Now discussion occurred on the items.

**6.0 New Business.**

**A. Rice Street Bridge.**

City Engineer Carol Caron was present to provide an overview of where the design process is with the Rice Street Bridge. Caron indicated that the City of Jordan has some options for the aesthetics of the bridge at this time such as if the bridge should have stamped concrete, and type of railing along the bridge.

Caron provided a powerpoint presentation showing several alternatives of railing and stamped concrete patterns. The Park and Recreation Commission also reviewed the options for stamped concrete by visiting a website showing examples of types that are currently available.

*Motion Boncher seconded by Breeggemann to move forward with a bridge design that has the railing option 2 in green, utilizing acorn style lighting with green posts, and the New England Drystack stamped concrete on the inside and outside of the side railings, pier caps and wing walls. Motion approved unanimously.*

**7.0 Planners Report.**

The Commission acknowledged the information regarding the Park Equipment Improvement Fund and the Park Dedication Fund.

**8.0 Commissioner Report.**

No items were reported during the meeting.

**9.0 Adjournment.**

*Motion Knutson, seconded Breeggemann, to adjourn the Park and Recreation Commission meeting at 8:58 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Janish  
Senior Planner