



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

Members Present: Chair Jerry Langsweirdt; Vice-Chair Donna Breeggemann; Tim Bischke; John Glynn; Thomas Boncher

Staff Present: Senior Planner Joe Janish

Others Present: None

1.0 Call to Order.

Chair Langsweirdt called the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:01 pm.

2.0 Adopt Agenda.

Commissioner Breeggemann requested to add a discussion on the Community Growth Options Program.

Motion Breeggemann, seconded by Bischke to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion on the Community Growth Options. Motion unanimously approved.

3.0 Approval of Minutes.

Motion Breeggemann, seconded by Bischke to approve the January 26, 2009 minutes. Motion unanimously approved.

4.0 Presentations/Discussions.

A. Introductions.

Senior Planner Janish indicated the Planning Commission recently went around the table and provided an introduction about them after new members have been appointed. Mr. Janish encouraged members to provide background information about themselves they would be willing to share with the group.

Members present provided a brief summary about themselves and Mr. Janish read through an email outlining background information Commissioner Knutson wanted to share with the commission about her.

5.0 Old Business.

A. Fishing Pier Update.

Senior Planner Janish noted that Public Works Director Bendzick has had conversations with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) about possibly funding a fishing pier for the Mill Pond. Since the dredging has been completed Public Works Director Bendzick has been notified that the DNR would be willing to contribute \$6,000 towards constructing a pier that would cost \$8,300. Janish stated Mr. Bendzick had contacted the Jordan Fire Department and Fish Lake Sports Club to see if the two organizations would be willing to donate funds for the construction of the fishing pier. The two organizations did make a verbal commitment to Mr. Bendzick indicating they would be willing to donate the additional funds and also offered to assist with the construction of the pier.

Janish also noted once the pier is constructed it would be placed on the ice between the spillway and warming house along Park Drive and as the ice melts the fishing pier would “drop” into place and float. Janish also noted the fishing pier has the ability to be moved in needed.

Mr. Janish noted Commissioner Breeggemann indicated it may have been possible to approach local businesses in order to ask for donations on materials at the last Park and Recreation Commission meeting; however the fishing pier is actually a kit which is assembled.

No action taken.

6.0 New Business.

A. Term Limits.

Janish indicated several years ago the City Council reduced the number of individuals who serve on the Commissions in order to provide for an odd number of people. The Council accomplished this by not filling one vacancy on the Planning Commission and Park and Recreation Commission when the terms were vacant. During the “reorganization” it caused a lopsided turn-over in members. Mr. Janish noted currently the Park and Recreation Commission had four seats which had their terms expire in the same year, and under the current practice only two seats would expire in December of this year.

Mr. Janish noted it would be more appropriate to have a turn over rate of three and three in order to allow for a quorum of individuals to make a recommendation to the Mayor for appointments. Staff outlined two options which were possible. The first option outlined would be for an individual to volunteer and have their seat become available for appointment at the end of 2009. The second option would be to convert all the terms to a three year cycle which would have two seats up for reappointment each year. Janish noted the second option would actually comply with state statute however the statute would allow for the Park and Recreation to continue with two year terms because it was actually created prior to the state statute.

Commissioners questioned as to why staff did not provide a third option of leaving the turnover rate of four and two. Mr. Janish indicated it would be more appropriate to have a quorum when making recommendations to the Mayor for appointments, and did not consider leaving the turnover rate at four and two. Mr. Janish did indicate if the Park and Recreation Commission decided to continue to have the four and two turnover rate it would be brought forward to the Jordan City Council for consideration.

Commissioner Breeggemann noted she would have a comfort level with going to three year terms.

Commissioner Bischke indicated he would consider a one year term in order to straighten out the turnover rate.

Commissioner Glynn indicated that option one or two would help with the quorum.

Commissioner Boncher indicated he would withhold voting on this subject.

Motion Glynn, seconded Breeggemann, to recommend one seat become a year term which would expire in December of 2009, and after appointment the term would then again become a two year term. Vote 4-0-1 (Boncher abstain) motion passed.

B. Organization.

Senior Planner Janish indicated every year the park and Recreation Commission is required to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chairperson. It would be appropriate to consider the process and appoint a Chair and Vice-Chairperson at this time.

Chair Langsweirdt indicated the Chair and Vice-Chair Person is required to have at least one-year of experience in order to be nominated.

Motion Glynn, Seconded Breeggemann to nominate Langsweirdt as Chairperson of the Park and Recreation Commission. Langsweirdt questions if there where further nominations and hearing none a vote was taken. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion Bischke, seconded Glynn to nominate Breeggemann as Vice-Chairperson of the Park and Recreation Commission. Langsweirdt questions if there where further nominations and hearing none a vote was taken. Motion unanimously approved.

C. Park and Recreation Commission Information – Handouts at meeting.

Senior Planner Janish indicated the information that was passed out this evening an excerpt from the Comprehensive Plan which consists of the Parks, Trails and Recreation chapter along with corresponding maps.

Some Commissioners questioned why the park area at the intersection of Juergens Circle and Rustle Road was not shown as a park area. Janish commented he would look into it.

Mr. Janish also noted he is in the process of putting together information on roles and responsibilities of Commissioners and will provide a copy to members once it is complete. Janish indicated one of the items members should be aware of is the open meeting violation. If members are in an area that has four Park and Recreation Commission Members one of those members should leave the group or stay on the opposite side of the room. Mr. Janish noted that four members of the Park and Recreation Commission constitute a quorum and if reported fines could be implemented to the City and also to the members if someone perceives those members are discussing, and planning actions or decisions as it relates to Park and Recreation Commission items. Commissioners posed a few scenarios and Mr. Janish indicated that if the perception is that people believe discussions are occurring about Park and Recreation Commission items the possibility of getting in trouble would exist. Mr. Janish further noted he would attempt to cover the matter further in future handouts.

D. Community Growth Options (CGO)

Mr. Janish indicated that the City of Jordan has received a grant in order to work on implementing the Comprehensive Plan. The Grant is funded through the McKnight Foundation and the funds are dispersed through 1000 Friends of Minnesota. Currently one meeting has been held and discussions have occurred as to what the downtown area should look like and what type of uses should be included. Janish noted that it is intended to keep all commission members aware of the meetings and an email list is being created in order to email out information the Planning Commission along with at least one representative from each board receives. Mr. Janish noted Commission Breeggemann has been chosen to attend the CGO meetings.

Commission Breeggemann commented that the Park and Recreation may not have direct involvement in the work plan for the CGO until 2010 when the discussion about a Master Park and Trail Plan is developed, but it is still important to keep informed of what is occurring and possibly foresee opportunities for the Park and Recreation Commission, such as the possibility of taken buildings down and creating additional parkland in the Downtown area. Commissioner Breeggemann encouraged other members to attend the meetings which occur at the Planning Commission on the second Tuesday of the month.

Commissioner Boncher indicated he had participated in the first survey and was a little confused as to what exactly the list of uses was referring to if it was meant strictly for the Downtown area or if it also included the Triangle Lane area. Mr. Janish noted he would work with the consultant to try to specify more clearly what the surveys are trying to accomplish. Boncher also noted some of the uses may not necessarily be feasible for the downtown area in the future.

7.0 Planners Report.

A. PEI and Park Land Dedication Account Information.

Senior Planner Janish indicated the Park Land Fund has approximately \$412,844.54. Mr. Janish also noted due to commitments of projects such as: additional parking along Park Drive, construction of the Sawmill and 282 trails, and the Safe Routes to School Grant it is estimated the account would have a fund balance of \$242,380.

Mr. Janish noted the Park Equipment and Improvement Fund has a balance of \$59,020.28.

Commissioners questioned if it would be possible in the future to include a brief reason as to why a fund would increase or decrease. Mr. Janish noted that he thought that would be possible to include in future updates.

8.0 Commissioner Report.

Commissioners raised questions about the sewer pipeline that would potentially run underneath a future baseball park in Holzer Park. Mr. Janish noted, due to a potential development project not moving forward, not a lot of additional study has been conducted on the how the pipe would traverse through Holzer Park. Mr. Janish did note that he has had conversations with Public Works Director Bendzick and it was indicated the area for the future park would be a possible are the line would run, but a determination of if the pipe would be directional bored, open trenched, gravity feed or a force main would need to be decided in order to move forward with the ballpark.

Commissioner Bischke indicated he is holding discussions with Scott County about possible Bike routes.

Commissioner Breeggemann noted she has heard about a product that is applied to dirt and then a hard surface is created that could be suitable for bike trails.

Commissioner Glynn questioned about the MNDOT Rest Stop located off of Highway 21. Mr. Janish indicated the City Attorney has attempted to contact the owners to find out an interest level in possibly donating the property to the City of Jordan for a future park area. However the property owner has not responded to phone calls, and letters. Mr. Janish also noted the Park and Recreation Commissioners have reviewed concepts that could allow for a bridge from the Sawmill Trail area to the MNDOT Rest Stop.

Commissioner Boncher questioned if it might be possible to obtain the Christmas Train that Willy Pauly used to display in his yard and display it at Pekarna's Park. Commissioner Langsweirdt noted he would ask about the idea with Willy's family.

Commissioner Boncher also noted he would like to have a tour of the parks and the facilities associated with the parks in the near future.

Commissioner Boncher also questioned if it is possible to obtain wireless internet in the Council Chambers. Senior Planner Janish noted that currently the wireless internet has been disabled due to security reasons.

Chair Langsweirdt noted the Lions are considering donating something to the improved swimming beach at the Mill Pond. Langsweirdt noted the Lions noticed how heavily used it was last summer fall and someone from the Lions will probably be contacting the city staff in the near future.

9.0 Adjournment.

Motion Boncher, seconded Breeggemann, to adjourn the Park and Recreation Commission meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Janish
Senior Planner