



**City of Jordan
Park and Recreation Commission
October 24, 2011**

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

Staff Present: Senior Planner Joe Janish, City Engineer Tim Loose, Public Works Director Dave Bendzick, Planning Intern Isaac Kerry, Mike Waltman

Others Present: Jan Gilmer, Kathy Colling, Tom Colling, George Colling, John Stahlen, Gary Mueller, Kathy Martens

1.0 Call to Order.

Chair Breeggemann called the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:03 pm.

2.0 Adopt Agenda.

Motion Hanson, seconded Schmitt, to approve agenda. Motion approved unanimously.

3.0 Approval of Minutes.

A. September 26, 2011 Minutes

Motion Hanson seconded Boncher to approve the minutes as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

4.0 Presentations/Discussions.

A. Review plan and hear public input for multi-use trail connecting Maple Lane area to Highway 282.

Mike Waltman presented a review of the proposed Maple Lane trail plans that he had discussed at the September meeting. He detailed the major options including a trail along Highway 282 itself, and three different variations of a trail cutting through the bluff area directly. Members of the public commented throughout his presentation with questions and concerns. Amongst these were:

Dave Bendzick raised a concern that given the amount of loops in the proposed trail, individuals were likely to take shortcuts between the paths instead of following them. Waltman pointed to a proposed fence along most of the trail that he said should address this issue.

Bendzick also raised the possibility that given the slope of the trail the city's maintenance equipment might not be able to maintain it during the winter, and the city might have to close it.

A member of the public asked why the trail did not connect communities further down along 282, and pointed out that it fell well short of the city's growth boundary. Chair Breeggemann stated that cost concerns dictated the trail network be completed in bits and pieces.

Another comment was made by the audience that the city should consider the cost savings of building an 8 foot trail rather than the proposed 10 foot trail. Waltman stated that the size of the trail was not a major component of the cost and that the larger trail offered enhanced safety, especially to disabled persons.

Concerns were raised by Bendzick and audience members about the trail's impact on rainwater runoff. Waltman stated that catch basins would need to be constructed and that they are currently included in the price estimates.

A member of the audience pointed out that all the current proposals seem very seasonal and that maintenance concerns would seem to require the trail be closed during the winter months.

Another resident suggest that a better option for the trail would be to build one in the south west that did not cut through the bluff.

Residents and members of the commission entered into a discussion about reducing the speed along Highway 282 and the possibility of requesting a speed study from MnDOT. Bendzick stated that a speed study resulted in the speed being raised several years ago and a new one might not result in a reduced speed limit.

Motion Hanson, seconded Boncher, for Boncher to bring this issue up at the next meeting of the Safety Committee and discuss whether or not a speed study should be done.

A resident brought up a concern the danger posed by wild animals along the trail, stating she has had several encounters with them in her yard and worried about the possibly liability to the city. Knutson pointed out this was not any different a situation than other trails or parks. Janish stated he would check with the city attorney, but that the city's liability insurance should cover such an incident.

Boncher asked the residents in attendance if this was something that was actually wanted, as he felt most of the comments received this evening had been negative. Residents responded with mixed views, some stating they were in favor of the trail, others stating they opposed it for safety and other concerns.

It was suggested by an audience member that the commission survey residents impacted by the proposed trail to determine their level of interest and how often they felt they would use it.

Hanson stated he felt a survey was a good idea. He said he felt there were safety concerns with all options put before the commission, but that these were the only viable options the were and that there needed to be a trail connecting the area to downtown.

Bischke said he wanted to see other options and suggested talking with developer Dick Ames to see if a trail was possible across his land. Janish stated that is would be most appropriate for the city administrator to talk to Ames.

Motion Hanson, seconded Boncher, to request the city administrator talk to Ames about the possibility of a trail on his land.

B. Bolton & Menk – Highway 282 landscaping proposal

Tim Loose presented to the commission three proposals for landscaping along Highway 282 coming into Jordan from the north. Commission members indicated a preference for the informal planting proposal which would have trees and shrubs clustered together.

Janish stated he felt it was important for the next step to be conferring with business owners along the highway who would be impacted by the proposed landscaping. Janish stated he felt some owners might object to the potential obstructions the planting would cause and that bringing them into the discussion early on would ease their concerns.

Hanson stated he would like to hear their input, but that his decision would be based on what benefited the community as a whole.

Boncher stated he felt that making this stretch of road more pleasant to drive on would make it more pleasant to shop and ultimately benefit business owners. Boncher stated he felt the commission should get input from the community as a whole first, and then talk to business owners specifically. Janish and Kerry stated they felt it would be best to address the concerns of business owners by themselves, so as to not create an atmosphere that would potentially pit them against the town.

Motion Schmitt, seconded Hanson, to approach business leaders along the impact stretch of highway with the proposed design options and invite them to the November meeting of the commission to discuss them.

C. Public Works Director Dave Bendzick – Lagoon Park restroom bids

Bendzick discussed two bids he had received for renovating the Lagoon Park restrooms. The commission was pleased with the bids and wanted no changes made.

Motion Boncher, seconded Bischke, to recommend the City Council to approve funds of \$18,704.00 from the PEI account in order to accept the bid from Mamer Construction with a completion deadline of 5/1/12.

D. Determine date for December meeting

Kerry stated that due to Christmas falling on a Sunday, the normally scheduled meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission would fall on a city holiday. He informed the commissioners that they could either meeting on Wednesday, 12/27, or cancel the December meeting.

Chair Breeggemann tabled the issue until the November meeting in order to have a clearer sense if any items would need to be addressed in November.

5.0 Old Business.

A. Project Updates

Chair Breeggemann asked if there were any plans to conduct a winter walkability workshop. Janish stated that was a possibility and would look into setting one up for a February date.

6.0 New Business.

7.0 Planners Report

A. PEI and Parkland Dedication Account Information

Kerry presented a more detailed report of fund levels to the commission, including expenditures from 2009. Commissioners requested an itemized breakdown of expenditures over \$10,000. Staff will consult with the finance director for this information.

8.0 Commissioner Report.

Hanson stated that progress on the basketball court sign was stalled, but that it should be ready by the spring.

Boncher stated that he had had many compliments on the crosswalk signs. He also stated he wanted to know if there was a camera watching the skate park. Janish stated there was but its location was not being announced in case of vandalism.

Bischke stated he did not feel like the cross walk signs were doing any good.

9.0 Adjournment.

Motion Knutson, seconded Hanson, to adjourn the Park and Recreation Commission meeting at 10:10 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Isaac Kerry
Planning Intern