



**City of Jordan
Park and Recreation Commission
November 28, 2011**

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

Staff Present: City Administrator Ed Shukle, Planning Intern Isaac Kerry, Mike Waltman

Others Present: Wes Hallberg, Lee Radermacher, Jim Halle, Rick Lockert

1.0 Call to Order.

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

2.0 Adopt Agenda.

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

3.0 Approval of Minutes.

A. October 24, 2011 Minutes

Chair Breeggemann noted a misspelling of an attendee.

Motion Bishke seconded Hanson to approve the minutes with amended name change. Motion approved 6-0, Murray abstained.

4.0 Presentations/Discussions.

A. Business Input for 282 Landscaping Plan

Mike Waltman from Bolton & Menk presented a review of the proposed landscaping additions along the Highway 282 corridor coming into Jordan from Highway 169. He outlined two major options, the first featuring groups of trees, the second following a more linear approach. Both plans called for a mixture of over and under story trees and shrubs.

Chair Breeggemann opened the meeting to comment from business owners.

Wes Halberg (Yocum Oil) asked if there was any intent to put in mulch or stones along with the trees and shrubs. If so he said that the estimates would rise. Waltman stated that the plan was not to that level of detail yet and was more of a concept to start a discussion.

Lee Radermacher (Radermacher's) stated that he felt that it was a foregone conclusion this would happen, but that there was not a large amount of business support for the proposal. He

highlighted several concerns including that he doesn't think the planting will survive the winter due to snow storage and salt and that he doesn't see the benefit to businesses along the corridor.

Jim Holle (Frandsen Bank) also stated that he was against the proposal. He highlighted three major concerns. First, he felt that adding any trees to the area would present a safety concern, as sightlines are already challenging. Second, he felt that business exposure would suffer as the trees would screen the businesses along the corridor. Finally, he stated he felt that even if it was grant money that was spent, it was an unfair burden to taxpayers in the current economy. He suggested better maintaining the concrete at the intersection of 169 and 282, which he said currently has a number of weeds growing in it.

Rick Lockert (Hometown Bank) echoed the concerns of the other business representatives. He said that especially the intersection of 282 and Creek Lane had poor visibility already and adding trees would cause a safety hazard. He also stated he was worried about the screening effect trees would have. Lockert also said he was concerned that any landscaping work that would be done would be destroyed by the eventual 169 interchange project.

Hallberg stated that he also felt there were safety concerns with adding more trees. He also was concerned about the maintenance that would need to be done with new landscaping, stating he didn't feel that the businesses would want to assist.

Thom Boncher referenced an email from Dave Wolf which brought up the possibility of an incentive program the city could operate to help businesses beautify their locations. Bonchers asked what sort of incentives businesses would be looking for. Radermacher stated he wasn't sure what incentives would work and that earlier on he had tried to plant flowers in some open area on his property but they didn't not survive the winter.

Lockert stated he was happy with the area as it is and didn't think any improvements needed to be made.

David Hanson stated that the commission wanted to be sensitive to the needs of the businesses in this area and their intent was to create more shade for pedestrians. He stated that the plan as it was might have had too many trees. He addressed Radermacher's earlier point by stating that this was not a foregone conclusion and that he saw the concerns of the businesses brought up here a road block to moving forward.

Tim Bischke stated he felt that the overall sentiment from businesses was that they were happy with the current landscaping. He asked the business representatives what they would want to see? Radermacher stated he had not thought about the issue much.

Margaret Knutson stated that the commission was attempting to create a more walkable community and that there currently was not any shade along this area.

Lockert stated that he thought the safety concerns more trees would add were more important to consider than shade.

Ed Shukle stated that it was important to remember the differences between the commercial area and the residential area over the bridge.

Lockert stated he didn't feel there were many walkers along this area. Hanson said the commission is trying to create more. Breeggemann stated that the new senior housing would likely increase foot traffic.

Hanson said that he thought the businesses brought up some good points and that part of him wanted to eliminate the project, although he also wanted to see more green in this area. He said he hoped the commission could find a happy medium. Radermacher said he wasn't sure a happy medium existed.

Halberg and Lockert both stated they would not mind a few trees being planted, as long as their location was carefully considered. Nancy Murray said that maybe it was best to just plant a few trees, as something is better than nothing and more shade would be good for this area.

Chair Breeggemann asked the commission how they should direct Bolton & Menk. Hanson asked if planters would be covered by the grant funding, Kerry stated he would check.

Bischke stated he thought incorporating native grasses would be a good idea. Knutson asked Waltman if he could look into no maintenance grass or wildflowers.

Boncher stated he felt the public should have input in the process. Breeggemann said she felt the commission should have a clearer plan in place before bringing in the public to comment.

Lance Schmitt stated he felt given the opinion of the business owners that the area should be left the way it is and that it doesn't seem like the time is right.

Motion Knutson for Bolton & Menk to modify the original plan to include fewer trees, no shrubs, mix of understory and overstory trees on both sides, and to take into account sightlines and signs of businesses. Murray seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Parks Brochure Draft Review

Kerry presented current draft of parks brochure. Commission members offered feedback. Updated version will be presented at January meeting.

C. Winter Walkability Workshop

Kerry presented route options for a walkability workshop to be held in February. Commission approved of routes and directed staff to look into finalizing dates and preparing invitations to community. Knutson suggested a Sunday afternoon date, since an evening time during the week would be too dark.

D. December Meeting Discussion

Motion Hanson, seconded Bischke, to skip the December meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission due to conflict with holidays. Motion passed unanimously.

5.0 Old Business.

A. Project Updates

Chair Breeggemann requested Bolton & Menke give the commission an update of their various projects at the January meeting.

Boncher advised the commission that the Rice Street Bridge project was moving ahead and that all necessary approvals were in place.

6.0 New Business.

7.0 Planners Report

A. PEI and Parkland Dedication Account Information

Kerry presented an itemized report on fund levels from the Finance Director. Commission members requested staff to analyze feasibility of giving each park and project their own code so that expenditures could easily be tracked.

8.0 Commissioner Report.

Chair Breeggemann stated that she would like future agenda's to include an item for the Council Liaison to report to the commission. She also stated she would like to hear from Public Works Director Dave Bendzick in January about his planned expenditures so that the Parks and Recreation commission can plan their spending

Boncher stated that he wants to be informed when the Rice Street bridge construction starts so that planters can be removed.

Bischke stated that he felt there is a problem with the way parkland dedication is handled and felt too many developers took the cash option. The commission requested staff look into this issue and present their findings at the January meeting.

Hanson stated that he was contacted by the Lions Club with a request to place a monument of the Pledge of Allegiance by the cannon in Lagoon Park. The commission requested this item be placed on the January agenda. Hanson also advised the commission that the current bids he has received for the sign for the basketball court were too high and he is looking into other options. He also asked staff to look into the possibility of removing brush and trees along the west side of Aberdeen Avenue between Old 169 and Oak Terrace.

Knutson requested a Rec Program update be placed on the January agenda. She also said that staff should begin work on the Planter Program for 2012. She also requested an updated term list of members.

Murray indicated she felt the current location of the camera in the skate park was poor.

9.0 Adjournment.

Motion Murray, seconded Knutson, to adjourn the Park and Recreation Commission meeting at 9:43 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Isaac Kerry, Planning Intern