

**BELLE PLAINE PARK BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 23, 2009**

1. OATH OF OFFICE. Kevin Crooks and Erik Mortensen.

Assistant Planner Villella administered the Oath of Office to newly-appointed members Kevin Crooks and Erik Mortensen. The Commissioners welcomed them to the Park Board.

2. CALL TO ORDER. 1.1. Roll Call.

The Belle Plaine Park Board met in Regular Session of Monday, February 23, 2009 in the Government Center at 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, Minnesota. Commissioner Chris Kehr called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with Commissioners Dan Gardner, Kevin Crooks, Erik Mortensen and Kelly Norton present. Also present were Council liaisons Tim O'Laughlin and Cary Coop, Student Council Representative Cody Gerres, Assistant Planner Andy Villella and Community Development Director Trisha Rosenfeld.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

MOTION by Gardner, second by Kehr, to approve the agenda as presented. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. 3.1. Regular Session Minutes of January 26, 2009.

MOTION by Gardner, second by Kehr, to approve the Regular Session Minutes of January 26, 2009. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

5. BUSINESS.

5.1. Election of Officers – Chair and Vice-Chair.

MOTION by Norton, second by Gardner, to nominate Chris Kehr as Chair, to close the nominations and cast a unanimous vote. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Norton, second by Kehr, to nominate Dan Gardner as Vice Chair, to close the nominations and cast a unanimous vote. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

5.2. Riverview Park.

Chair Kehr referenced a memo from Assistant Planner Villella dated February 23, 2009 regarding the Riverview Trail surface cost estimates.

Assistant Planner Villella explained the cost estimates for the proposed trail that will run through Riverview Park for soft surface, consisting of gravel or sand, and also bituminous and concrete. He further explained that staff is continuing to research access issues to Riverview Park.

Commissioner Crooks suggested that if a good base consisting of Class V materials is installed under the soft surface, it will accommodate a future hard surface. Class V materials can be installed if there is no incline and the path is free of twists and turns.

5.3. History of Park Dedication Funds.

Assistant Planner Villella provided a report on previous park dedication fee rates, similar cities park dedication fee rates and park dedication funding. The Commissioners reviewed the data. No further action was taken.

5.4. Current Park Amenities' Feasibility.

Chair Kehr referenced a memo from Assistant Planner Villella dated February 23, 2009 regarding the current park amenities feasibility as listed in the City's 2008 Comprehensive Plan which illustrates feasibility and future need of park amenities according to Joanne Foust, Municipal Development Group, Inc. using the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration Standards.

Gardner asked whether the new tennis courts at the athletic complex were included in the calculations. Norton asked about the shortage of volleyball courts. The Commissioners also questioned restroom facilities. Staff will research these issues and report back at the next meeting.

5.5. DNR Minnesota River Clean-up Project – Paul Nordell from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Chair Kehr welcomed Paul Nordell from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Also in attendance were Eva Johnson, DNR Parks and Trails Water Recreation Specialist, Tim Lies, President, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, Scott Sparlin, Citizens for a Clean Minnesota River, New Ulm Area Sport Fishers, Tony Miller, 3M River Restoration Action Team, Mark Cleveland, DNR Parks and Trails and Kirk Johnson, Tamara Simonich, Minn Valley Recreational Area.

Mr. Nordell provided an overview of the proposed river clean-up project for the Belle Plaine area. He explained that approximately 75 to 80% of the refuse materials have been removed from the former Voss Junkyard site. The removal included health hazards such as barrels containing chemicals, batteries, open wells, and over 10,000 tires. The remaining tires provide breeding grounds for the tree-hole mosquitoes and the State would like to complete the removal to avoid this health hazard. On June 6, 2009, the Minnesota 4-Wheel Association will be available to remove materials. On October 24, 2009, another clean up project is scheduled with heavy equipment to remove remaining large objects. Mr. Nordell explained that the beavers are building dams, complicating the process.

Mr. Nordell encouraged the Park Board to assist with the organization of volunteers. Kirk Johnson, Mosquito Control Division, re-iterated the need to remove the tires and debris from the flood plain area to prevent further spread of encephalitis and other diseases carried by the tree-hole mosquito. Scott Sparlin, New Ulm, MN, explained that there are many volunteers willing to assist with Belle Plaine's clean up project. Many of the volunteers have been involved with the initial clean up and would like to see the project completed. Mr. Sparlin anticipates two bus loads of volunteers to travel to Belle Plaine for the project. He suggested that the Commissioners promote and explain the clean up project and get the community involved.

Tony Miller, 3M River Restoration, stated he was involved with the initial clean up and he would like to see closure on this project. He has a Power Point presentation comparing the "before and after" photographs of the area. He will forward the presentation to the City staff. Tim Lies, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, stated he will assist with coordinating efforts for the clean up.

Mr. Nordell would like to have volunteers assist with the removal materials before the foliage and mosquitoes appear. He will advise staff of the scheduled work day as soon as possible.

Chair Kehr and the Commissioners thanked Mr. Nordell and guests for their presentation and concern for cleaning up the environment.

6. ADMINISTRATION.

6.1. Next Regular Meeting – 5:00 p.m. Monday, March 30, 2009.

The Commissioners were reminded of the next regular meeting as listed.

7. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION by Norton, second by Gardner, to adjourn at 5:55 p.m. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Krings
Recording Secretary