

**BELLE PLAINE PARK BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 28, 2008**

PARK TOUR

The Bicycle Friendly Sub-Committee (Jacobs, Coop and Gransee-Bowman) met at 4:30 p.m. to discuss bike trail and bike tours.

The Park Board Members met at 5:00 p.m. on April 28, 2008 at Heritage Park and then traveled to Hickory Park and Meadow Park.

1. CALL TO ORDER. 1.1. Roll Call.

The Belle Plaine Park Board met in Regular Session of Monday, April 28, 2008 in the Government Center at 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, Minnesota. Chair Chuck Jacobs called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. with Commissioners Chris Kehr, Michelle Gransee-Bowman, Dan Gardner, Cary Coop and Alternate Kelly Norton present. Also present were Council liaisons Tim O'Laughlin and Tim Lies.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

MOTION by Coop, second by Kehr, to approve the agenda with the addition of 4.12., MNDOT Bicycle Facility Design Training Seminar and 4.13., Boy Scout Sidewalk/Trail Map Update. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. 3.1. Regular Session Minutes of March 24, 2008.

MOTION by Gransee-Bowman, second by Coop, to approve the Regular Session Minutes of March 24, 2008. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Business.

4.1. Park Tour Review.

The Park Board discussed the results of their 5:00 p.m. tour today. They recommended that additional wood fiber be added to Heritage Square playground area. They also recommended that landscaping, such as evergreen trees, be placed along Laredo Street for safety and noise protection. Tim Lies suggested that the Boy Scouts assist with the landscaping project. The Commissioners suggested concrete pads for bike racks at Heritage Park and a bike rack at Meadow Park.

4.2. Century Park – Brad Narveson.

Brad Narveson, a resident near Century Park, asked that the Park Board consider adding a basketball court to Century Park. He commented that he believes the sand volleyball courts are underutilized and he thinks that a basketball court would be more popular. Mr. Narveson was informed of the plans to construct a basketball court at Hickory Park later this year. Mr. Narveson was pleased with that information.

4.3. Community Pool – Sandy Johnson and Matt Fogarty.

Sandy Johnson and Matt Fogarty presented the Park Board with a sketch of proposed improvements to the pool area. A concrete patio will be added to the east side of the pool entrance. A pool fund-raising committee has been formed to raise funds for this project. Ms. Johnson asked if the Park Board would consider sponsoring the sign at the pool. Gransee-Bowman inquired about adequate bike racks. Lies will ask the Public Works committee about bike racks and speed reduction near the pool area. The pool sign will be added to next month's agenda.

Chair Jacobs and the Commissioners thanked the Ms. Johnson and Mr. Fogarty for their presentation. The City Council will take action on the pool patio at their next Council meeting.

4.4. Biking Tours.

Coop reported that the Bicycle Friendly Sub-Committee has recommended three bike tours this summer. They would take place on the third Wednesday of June, July and August. The first tour would be co-sponsored with the Belle Plaine Historical Society. The tour would start at the Government Center, then to Fountain Park and end at Court Square. A tour of the Hillstrom Historical House will be also included. The second bike tour will be focused on the environment and safety. The third will be the "Tour DeBelle Plaine." Jacobs reported that he has a connection for the donation of a Trek bike by Penn Cycle which will be given away in a drawn at the third bike tour. The sub-committee will continue to meet to finalize the plans and a plan of action for the promotion of the bike tour.

Lies asked for volunteers to assist with the annual Bar B Q Days bike ride.

The sub-committee will explore the Bicycle Friendly grant application and report back at the next meeting. The Complete Streets program will be placed on hold until the Bicycle Friendly program is determined. The Park Board members would like to assist with the Public Works Department and the City in its re-application of Safe Routes to School grant.

4.5. Robert Creek Steamboat Landing Update.

Coop reported that he has not obtained any further information on the Robert Creek Steamboat Landing.

4.6. Tennis Court Status.

Gardner reported that the School District has received a bid of \$120,000 for the lighting of the tennis courts at the school athletic complex. There has been no action on plans for the old tennis courts. Gardner stated that he would schedule a meeting in June with committee members Kehr, Coop and Lies.

4.7. Highway 25/Walnut Street Trail Extension.

The Commissioners discussed a trail extension to the river bridge. Lies stated that he would bring this issue to the Public Works committee meeting for information about State road right-of-way.

4.8. Safety Issues.

The Commissioners discussed signage for pedestrian crossings and recommended staff purchase a book entitled, "Trail Planning Design and Development Guidelines" at a cost of \$19.95, www.minnesotabookstore.com, 651-297-3000, item 9-66.

4.9. Open Space Plan.

A copy of the City's Open Space and Park Plan as prepared by CR Planning in May, 2005 was distributed to the Commissioners as requested by Gransee-Bowman.

4.10. Update on Overhead Lighting for Parks and Adjacent Streets.

Lies will bring the issue of lighting parks and adjacent streets to the Public Works agenda. O'Laughlin asked that staff provide a breakdown of how XCel Energy invoices the City for lighting.

4.11. Park Signs.

Staff provided a cost estimate of \$2,299 by Promotion Graphics for a park sign at Hickory Park. The sign would be similar to the park signs in other City parks. Staff will continue to obtain other options for park signs.

MOTION by Jacobs, second by Coop, to respectfully request that the Beautiful Prairie Trail signs be installed as soon as it is convenient. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

4.12. Arbor Day – Tree City USA Status.

The Park Board participated in the Arbor Day tree planting ceremony earlier this evening. Lies read the Arbor Day Proclamation.

4.13. Minnesota Bike Summit.

Granssee-Bowman informed the Commissioners of the MnDOT Bicycle Facility Design Training in Rochester, MN on May 5, 2008 and encouraged the Commissioners to attend.

4.14. Sidewalk/Trail Inventory.

Lies reported that the Boy Scouts are continuing their work on the City's sidewalk and trail map.

5. ADMINISTRATION.

5.1. Unaudited Financial Status Report.

5.2. Next Regular Meeting – 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 27, 2008.

The Commissioners were reminded of the next Park Board meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Chair Jacobs adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Krings
Recording Secretary