

**BELLE PLAINE PARK BOARD  
REGULAR SESSION  
JULY 30, 2007**

**Tour – Prairie Park**

The Park Board met at Prairie Park for a tour on Monday, July 30, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. The results of the tour were discussed later in the meeting.

**1, CALL TO ORDER. 1.1. Roll Call.**

The Belle Plaine Park Board met in Regular Session of Monday, July 30, 2007, in the Government Center at 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, Minnesota. Vice Chair Dan Gardner called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m. with Commissioners Chris Kehr, Michelle Gransee-Bowman, and Cary Coop present. Chair Chuck Jacobs and Alternate Jenna Tuma were not present. Also present were Council liaisons Tim O'Laughlin and Tim Lies.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

Gransee-Bowman requested the addition of agenda items: Update on Riverview Park and Trail Extension near Provence on the River.

MOTION by Commissioner Coop, second by Commissioner Kehr, to approve the agenda with the addition of 4.10, Update on Riverview Park and 4.11, Trail Extension near Provence on the River. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. 3.1. Regular Session Minutes of June 25, 2007. 3.2. Workshop Session minutes of July 18, 2007.**

MOTION by Commissioner O'Laughlin, second by Commissioner Coop, to approve the Regular Session Minutes of June 25, 2007 and the Workshop Session minutes of July 18, 2007. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

**4. Business.**

**4.1. Tour Discussion of Prairie Park.**

The Commissioners will discuss the amenities in Prairie Park. Coop recommended to find out what the long term plans are for the park. It was the consensus to ask Public Works Superintendent Fahey about a future well site at Prairie Park. The Commissioners recommended minor improvements as follows: add a bench seat to the park bench, repair the two light fixtures in the park shelter, repair the fence near first base (missing horizontal support beam), and add heavy chain links that appear to have been removed to the playground equipment to complete the climbing structure. Also, staff is to inquire about the score board replacement and whether Coke or Pepsi would sponsor a replacement board.

**4.2. Highway 25 Corridor Preservation Citizens Group.**

There were no representatives from the Highway 25 Corridor Group present. Krings distributed an email that the City received from MnDOT regarding the repair of the retaining wall on the 400 block of North Walnut Street/Highway 25. Lynn Clarkowski, MnDOT, stated that the repair is slated for MnDOT's fiscal year 2010. She noted that the City may participate in a cost share to help upgrade the wall. This issue will be placed on next month's agenda. The Commissioners noted the artist's rendition of the Highway 25 corridor.

**4.3. Visitor Dave Jeurissen.**

Mr. Jeurissen addressed the Park Board. He presented an idea for making the community pool area a recreational complex by expanding into the old tennis court area. He suggested that a hockey rink be placed there with a bituminous base that would allow for rollerblading and a basketball court during the summer months. The expansion would allow more recreational opportunities for youth in one area, which would be favorable to parents, he explained. He also recommended the City purchase a used Zamboni to help keep the ice rinks in good shape. He asked the consideration of the purchase of new boards for the current hockey rink as the boards are in poor shape and need to be demolished. Mr. Jeurissen suggested solar panels be purchased to help warm the pool water.

The Commissioners asked that Mr. Jeurissen obtain a quote for the board replacement. Council liaison Lies stated that he would bring these issues to the Public Works Committee meeting scheduled for August 3, 2007. The Commissioners asked to be informed of the results of that meeting. Gardner questioned the expense in relation to the small number of hockey players. Gransee-Bowman suggested that the pool expansion committee be made aware of the solar panel idea.

MOTION by Commissioner O'Laughlin, second by Commissioner Coop, to support the concept of replacing the boards at the hockey rink and to direct staff to obtain the estimated cost. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

#### **4.4. Old Tennis Courts.**

Member Coop suggested consideration of working with the School District for lease for City use of the tennis court land, with the intent to expand the pool. The School District could utilize the land as a parking lot, or other use, until the pool expansion project.

The Commissioners discussed the idea of an indoor pool at the future high school. It was noted that there will still be a need for an outdoor pool. The Commissioners determined that the former "tennis court" committee discuss this issue. Coop stated that the Chamber of Commerce would like a representative on the pool expansion committee that recently formed. The Commissioners requested that staff contact the Chamber President for more information. Councilmember Liaison O'Laughlin noted that it will be difficult for the City Council to budget for funds for a pool expansion project due to the economic situation.

MOTION by Commissioner Gardner, second by Commissioner Coop, to resurrect the Tennis Court Committee effective January 1, 2008 to discuss options for the old tennis court area. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

#### **4.5. Dog Park.**

Coop suggested utilizing the hockey rink during the summer season as a dog park, but then determined that it may be too small. No further action taken.

#### **4.6. 2008 Parks Budget Recommendation.**

The Commissioners discussed the need to have a budget line item for park development. Coop suggested the amount of \$5,000 to begin with. The Commissioners discussed the need for long term planning. Council Liaison O'Laughlin suggested that the Commissioners determine a specific use for the request. Council Liaison Lies suggested that funds be used for training, education and financial planning for the Commissioners. The Commissioners supported the idea of education for budgeting and preparation of a capital improvement plan. Council Liaison O'Laughlin noted that the University of Minnesota will be assisting the Design Committee with a wealth of information for the reasonable cost of \$2,000.

MOTION by Commissioner Coop, second by Commissioner Kehr, to recommend that staff and Council consider the addition of a new budget line item for 2008 of \$5,000 for the education and training for the Park Board for park-related planning. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

**4.7. Schedule Meeting with Public Works Superintendent.**

It was the consensus of the Commission to schedule a meeting with Public Works Superintendent Al Fahey at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. The Regular Park Board meeting will then start at 4:30 p.m. Coop suggested that the Park Board visit the Historical House on that date also. Staff to make arrangements.

**4.8. Update on American Greenways Grant Application.**

The Greenways Grant notification will be September, 2007.

**4.9. Signage for the "Beautiful Prairie Trail" System.**

MOTION by Commissioner Coop, second by Commissioner Kehr, to recommend the Public Works Department to purchase 25 "Beautiful Prairie Trail" signs and posts at the estimated cost of \$500.00 (for 25 - 12"x16" signs at \$14.45/each) green lettering and white background, from Earl F. Anderson sign company, plus tax and shipping. Installation to be completed by the Public Works Department. Furthermore, if funds are not available in the 2007 budget, then the request is to ask for inclusion in the 2008 budget. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

**4.10. Update on Provence on the River – Riverview Park.**

Granssee-Bowman asked about funding for the development of Riverview Park. She has received inquiries from surrounding property owners about the park. Staff explained that historically the funds have been pooled and not specific to the development of the corresponding park. Granssee-Bowman asked whether it would be possible to set aside ten percent of dedication funds for the re-development of parks. Staff to research and report back.

**4.11. Provence Trail Extension.**

Granssee-Bowman asked about the trail extension west of Provence on the River. Coop noted that there is a portion of private land and also DNR land to the west of Provence.

**5. ADMINISTRATION.**

**5.1. Upcoming Meetings.**

**1. Next Regular Meeting – 3:30 p.m. Monday, August 27, 2007. Meeting with Public Works Superintendent Fahey and Regular Session at 4:30 p.m.**

The Park Board was reminded of the next meeting as listed.

**6. ADJOURNMENT.**

MOTION by Commissioner Coop, second by Commissioner Kehr, to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Krings  
Recording Secretary