

**BELLE PLAINE PARK BOARD  
REGULAR SESSION  
AUGUST 11, 2009**

**BIKE TRAIL TOUR.**

Commissioners Chris Kehr, Cary Coop, Kelly Norton and Dan Gardner and Assistant Planner Andy Villella conducted a bike trail tour on August 11, 2009 starting at 5:00 p.m. The Commissioners started at the Government Center and biked along State, Walnut, Main, Hickory, trail and underpass, and Market Street, and returning to the Government Center.

**1. ROLL CALL. 1.1. Call to Order.**

The Belle Plaine Park Board met in Regular Session on Tuesday, August 11, 2009 in the Government Center at 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, Minnesota. Chair Chris Kehr called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. with Commissioners Dan Gardner, Kevin Crooks, Kelly Norton and Erik Mortensen present. Also present were Council liaisons Cary Coop and Tim O'Laughlin, and Assistant Planner Andy Villella.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

Coop requested a change to the agenda, changing item 4.9. to 99-Year Lease at Court Square. Gardner requested item 4.11. Scoreboard at Heritage Square be added.

MOTION by Coop, second by Kehr, to approve the agenda with the change to 4.9., 99-Year Lease at Court Square, and 4.11., Scoreboard at Heritage Square. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. 3.1. Regular Session Minutes of July 14, 2009.**

MOTION by O'Laughlin, second by Coop, to approve the Regular Session Minutes of July 14, 2009. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

**4. BUSINESS.**

**4.1. Bike Tour Findings.**

The following recommendations were made: add painted crosswalks and crossing signs at each county road intersection, replace the low-back curb and add handicap access at O'Brien Parkway, the retaining wall at the Highway 169 underpass is deteriorating, the road shoulders along the 400 block of South Meridian should be paved for safety, the crossing at Hickory Boulevard and East Main Street is very unsafe for pedestrians/bicyclists. They also noted a number of large trees along the 300 block of South Chestnut Street, which may create a hindrance in extending the proposed route for the "big circle" trail in that area, and suggested painting the roadway to allow for bicyclists.

**4.2. Sprinkler System at Prairie Park.**

Belle Plaine resident Jason Ladd, on behalf of little league baseball, was present to discuss a proposal for sprinkler systems in Prairie Park. He explained the sophomore traveling and junior leagues are popular with young students. Ladd explained the fund-raising efforts of the volunteers by hosting tournaments. The volunteers have spent many hours in maintaining the field at Prairie Park. Ladd asked if the Park Fund could assist with the cost of a sprinkler system. Ladd also noted that a fence at Meadow Park would allow use of the field for baseball.

Coop cautioned the Park Board on over-spending on one sport: baseball. Crooks commented that this is a favorable deal for the City as the sprinkler system supports City infrastructure. Ladd and the Commissioners noted the limited amount of drinking fountains at City parks.

The consensus of the Commission was to ask Jason Ladd to attend next month's meeting with more detail about the sprinkler system.

#### **4.3. 2010 Budget.**

Chair Kehr referenced the park development budget of \$46,650 for 2010.

MOTION by Coop, second by Gardner, to recommend that the City Council adopt the Park Fund budget as presented. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

#### **4.4. Trail Survey**

Coop summarized his findings from a trail survey he conducted in July. He explained that it is important to have Park staff wear reflective vests and commented that it appears that the vests are the unofficial uniform of the City. Coop said many comments were received that trail lighting is needed, for safety and visibility. Details of the comments Coop received during his informal survey were included in the Commissioners' packet. Assistant Planner Villella will check into lighting costs. Information will be added to the next newsletter, The Bridge. This item will be added to the next Park Board agenda to scheduled the survey date.

#### **4.5. Recent City Council Actions.**

Staff provided an update on the recent City Council actions. They adopted the Veterans Park Concept Plan and approved the sidewalk at Historical House in Court Square. The DNR Voss Junkyard/River Valley Clean Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Coop is assisting with organizing the event. Norton will seek donations for refreshments.

#### **4.6. Bicycles in the Skate Park.**

At a recent City Council workshop, the Council discussed allowing bicycles into the skate park. City Council has requested Park Board's recommendation to the matter. The Commissioners discussed whether bikes should be allowed in the skate park at Heritage Square.

O'Laughlin commented that the City Council suggested that bikes be allowed. Kehr questioned why not leave the skate park as is. Norton commented that it should be for skate boards, not bicycles. Mortenson suggested an open skate park to allow bikes and skate boards.

MOTION by Coop, second by Gardner, to recommend the allowance of bikes in Heritage Square skate park and continue to lock the fence at the normal closing time. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

#### **4.7. July Site Visit Update.**

Assistant Planner Villella provided an update on the comments from last month's park visit. His memo dated August 11, 2009 detailed the follow-up on the items.

#### **4.8. Athletic Complex.**

Coop has requested Park Board discuss a possible need and location for a future athletic complex. He suggested the Park Board look at land outside the city limits and suggested an area of 100 acres.

It was the consensus to discuss the City's Open Space and Trail Plan at next month's meeting.

#### **4.9. 99-Year Lease at Court Square.**

Coop explained that he is a member of the Belle Plaine Historical Society and a member of the board. He explained that the Historical Society has suggested a 99-year lease with the city for the care and maintenance of the historical grounds and buildings. Coop noted that the funds of the Historical Society are very low.

MOTION by Coop, second by Gardner, to have the Historical Society request a meeting with the Park Board to further discuss their proposal, including the Historical Society's net worth, list of repairs and maintenance needed for the house, building and grounds and the estimated cost, and their plan as to how to pay for these costs. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

#### **4.10. Batting Cage at Heritage Square Update.**

Photos of the batting cage installation at Heritage Square under construction were provided by Assistant Planner Villella. The small shed has been improved with new siding and roof.

#### **4.11. Scoreboard at Heritage Square.**

Gardner explained that the volunteers associated with the baseball leagues are seeking funding for an electronic scoreboard at Heritage Square. More details will be provided at a future meeting.

### **5. ADMINISTRATION.**

#### **5.1. Decide September Site Visit.**

It was determined that the Commissioners will visit Prairie and Fountain Park for the September Park Board meeting. This will most likely be the last site visit of the year.

#### **5.2. Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday, September 15, 2009.**

The Commissioners were reminded of the next meeting.

Council Liaison O'Laughlin encouraged Park Board representation for the Scott County committee that is forming regarding trails, according to an article in the recent SCENE newsletter. Kelly Norton will contact City Administrator Murphy regarding appointment.

The River Valley Clean Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

### **6. ADJOURNMENT.**

MOTION by Norton, second by Kehr, to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Krings  
Recording Secretary