

**BELLE PLAINE PARK BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 15, 2009**

Tour

The Park Board members toured Prairie Park and Fountain Park. The Commissioners noted the following issues.

Prairie Park

The playground support poles need paint and the three caps need to be added to the poles. The upper slide guard is broken and the east side of the slide guard needs to be re-attached. There are three dying trees along Ash Street and replacement is recommended. There is no protection for the light breaker at the softball field and the Commissioners questioned whether a locking mechanism should be added.

Fountain Park.

There is a dead tree near the swing set and a replacement is recommended. The commissioners recommended painting the climbing structures and the ground play structures. Perhaps remove the ground structures if they are of no use. The wooden benches need paint. The tall slide is in need of new paint. The restrooms are missing identification of male and female signs.

1. CALL TO ORDER. 1.1. Roll Call.

The Belle Plaine Park Board met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 in the Government Center at 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, Minnesota. Chair Chris Kehr called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. with Commissioners Dan Gardner, Kevin Crooks and Kelly Norton and present. Commissioner Erik Mortensen was not present. Also present were Council liaisons Cary Coop and Tim O'Laughlin, Community Development Director Trisha Rosenfeld and Assistant Planner Andy Villella.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

MOTION by Coop, second by Gardner, to approve the agenda with the addition of: 4.6. DNR River Clean Up. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. 3.1. Regular Session Minutes of August 11, 2009.

MOTION by Coop, second by Gardner, to approve the Regular Session Minutes of August 11, 2009 as presented. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

4. BUSINESS.

4.1. Riverview Park Update.

A concept drawing of Riverview by Bolton and Menk was provided by Community Development Director Rosenfeld.

Coop explained that the City staff has met with the Quest Development and it appears that moving Phase 3 up and Phase 2 back would be more appropriate. Phase 3 contains the restrooms and playground equipment. Phase 2 contains benches, signage, parking lot and trees.

Community Development Director Rosenfeld explained that the City Council is proposing to provide \$50,000 to the development of Riverview Park. The funds are from the Ambulance fund and the development of Riverview would be a dedication of some type to the Ambulance volunteers. At this time,

it is only a proposal and details have not been determined. The final determination of the appropriation of the funds will be made in December, at the adoption of the final budget and levy for 2010.

Chair Kehr expressed concern for the location of the parking lot as it may cause the loss of oak trees. Crooks suggested that the 20-stall parking lot be reduced to 10 stalls. Community Development Director Rosenfeld explained that it is the City's policy to have infrastructure in place prior to development. Therefore, utilities and road improvement are to be completed by the developer prior to any park improvements. The developer has been reluctant to improve the road at this time due to economic reasons. Council Liaison O'Laughlin commented that the City does not want to set a precedent by developing a park in a premature subdivision. Coop noted that the sidewalk on the concept plan may interfere with the existing trees and that the sidewalk may need to be re-located. Council Liaison O'Laughlin reminded the Commissioners that Riverview is a nature park and different than what has been developed by the City in the past.

4.2. Tiger Park – Platform Seating.

Jeff O'Brien, representing the Belle Plaine Baseball Association, proposed a platform seating area to be added to Tiger Park. He said the expense of the expanded seating will be borne by the Baseball Association.

The Commissioners discussed the area of the new seating platform and inquired about the materials. Jeff O'Brien provided a sketch of the measurements and explained the construction.

MOTION by Gardner, second by Kehr, to recommend that the City Council approve additional platform seating at Tiger Park at no cost to the City as proposed by the Belle Plaine Baseball Association. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

4.3. 2010 Budget.

Assistant Planner Villella explained that the City Council will be adopting the final 2010 City budget this upcoming December. The preliminary budget was adopted at the September 8, 2009 City Council meeting. As it currently stands, Park Board will be allotted \$22,500 with an additional \$50,000 directly earmarked for Riverview Park development. Park Board had requested \$42,500 for 2010. If the final budget reflects the preliminary amount, Park Board will have to decide where to cut \$20,000. The final budget will be adopted by the City Council in December, 2009.

4.4. Athletic Complex.

Assistant Planner Villella explained that concept plans were created by a joint committee of Park Board commissioners and steering committee members in 2005 as part of the Open Space Plan. These plans were created for the committee's goal to work with surrounding communities and the school district to develop regional sport facilities and a range of recreational opportunities. The group focused on three different types of park facilities to help guide future decision making; multi-use community park concept, sports field complex and community center.

Coop noted that a large athletic complex would need to be located beyond the current City limits and suggested that three or four locations be identified for competitive pricing.

This issue will be discussed at a future meeting. No further action was taken at this time.

4.5. Episcopalian Church Restoration Update.

Assistant Planner Villella reported that the Episcopalian Church Restoration committee met on September 3, 2009 to discuss budgeting, grants, lighting of the church windows and park naming. Staff

has submitted the final grant application after receiving approval of the pre-application for the State Capital Grant from the Minnesota Historical Society. The City should receive the results later this fall. The subcommittee discussed naming the park, for both preparation of the proposed park sign and identification purposes. Similar to Park Boards discussion at the August meeting, the committee opted for a name that differentiated the park from a typical recreational park. The final determination for a park name is *Founders Memorial Park*. The committee discussed adding historic site and or museum. A determination will be made at a future time.

MOTION by Coop, second by Crooks, to recommend the name of Founders Memorial Park at 201 North Walnut Street for the city park land housing the Episcopalian Church and cemetery. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

4.6. August Site Visit Updates.

Chair Kehr referenced a memo dated September 15, 2009 from Assistant Planner Villella regarding an update from the August site visit. A recommendation on the striping of crosswalks on County Roads was included in the memo.

MOTION by Norton, second by Coop, to recommend that the City Council proceeds with a request to have the crosswalks on county roads painted and/or striped. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Coop, second by Kehr, to recommend that the City council request that Scott County pave the road shoulders along the 400 block of South Meridian Street to help make safer traveling for pedestrians and bicyclists along Meridian Street. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

It was requested that discussion on sidewalks be added to next month's agenda.

4.7. DNR River Clean Up.

Coop reported that the DNR River Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, October 3 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. He asked that the Park Board members volunteer to assist with the clean up. Coop explained that it is heavy work. Norton will be donating beverages for the event. Assistant Planner Villella will be sending out an email as a reminder as the event gets closer.

5. ADMINISTRATION.

5.1. Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

The Commissioners were reminded of the upcoming meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION by Coop, second by Gardner, to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Krings
Recording Secretary