

**BELLE PLAINE PARK BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
SEPTEMBER 24, 2007**

The Park Board met at Hickory Park for a tour on Monday, September 24, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. The results of the tour were discussed during the meeting.

1, CALL TO ORDER. 1.1. Roll Call.

The Belle Plaine Park Board met in Regular Session of Monday, September 24, 2007, in the Government Center at 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, Minnesota. Chair Chuck Jacobs called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. with Commissioners Michelle Gransee-Bowman, Dan Gardner, Cary Coop and Alternate Jenna Tuma present. Also present was Council liaison Tim O'Laughlin. Council liaison Tim Lies and Commissioner Chris Kehr were not present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. 3.1. Regular Session Minutes of August 27, 2007.

MOTION by Coop, second by O'Laughlin, to approve the Regular Session Minutes of August 27, 2007 as presented. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Business.

4.1. Mark Themig, Scott County Parks Program Manager – Scott County 2030 Parks, Trail, Open Space Plan Update.

Chair Jacobs welcomed Mark Themig, Parks Program Manager, and Patricia Freeman, Senior Natural Resources Specialist, of Scott County.

Mark Themig provided a PowerPoint presentation for the Scott County 2030 Parks, Trail and Open Space Plan Update. Mr. Themig explained that Scott County is one of ten Regional Park Implementing Agencies as coordinated by the Metropolitan Council. The County work plan for parks was reviewed that included master plan work for the Doyle-Kennefick, Spring Lake, and Cedar Lake Farm park development and the acquisition plan for Blakeley Bluffs as a regional park. Mr. Themig explained the Joint Powers Agreement between Scott County and Three Rivers Park District for the Murphy-Hanrehan and Cleary Lake parks. Existing, planned and proposed parks and trails plan for Scott County was reviewed.

Coop noted that the Belle Plaine area of the County does not have a regional park. Gransee-Bowman recommended that farm land preservation areas be set aside in Scott County. O'Laughlin suggested better communication between the entities, such as the DNR and Scott County. The Commissioners talked about DNR trail extensions and adding trails to county road reconstruction projects. Mr. Themig explained that the Scott County Parks Department has just begun to look at adding trails to road projects.

Mr. Themig invited the Park Board members to attend the open house for the Scott County 2030 Plan Update at Prior Lake on October 23, 2007. He also stated that there is an advisory meeting for the County park system on the first Wednesday of each month. Commissioner Hennen is the County Board liaison.

4.2. Hickory Park. 4.2.1. Next Phase Development - 1. Playground Equipment, 2. Ice Skating-Hockey Rinks.

The Commissioners discussed the next steps for Hickory Park. Jacobs preferred that an ice skating rink be installed soon. Gransee-Bowman concurred and would like the City to provide winter recreational activities for young people. Gardner believed that playground equipment should be installed first and noted that playground equipment will be utilized nine months of the year. The Commissioners requested that staff obtain options from Public Works as to the construction materials of an ice skating rink, whether it be of temporary or permanent materials. Gardner asked whether a smaller concrete pad could be placed soon, with plans for expansion at a future date. The Commissioners suggested an ice skating rink about 75% of the size of a regulation ice hockey rink. They favored waiting on the ice hockey rink until the demand increases.

4.3. Comp Plan – Trail Map.

The Commissioners discussed the Trail Plan that is included in the City's 2007 Comp Plan. It was noted that the map does not accurately reflect our trail system. O'Laughlin explained that the bids for the 2007 East Main Sidewalk Project came in higher than expected. The project was split, with the trail portion to be installed in 2007 and the sidewalk portion of the project, which was the area between Ash and Elm Streets, will be considered as part of the 2008 Street Improvement Project. O'Laughlin further explained that the trail system is installed and maintained at City expense. A sidewalk is installed and maintained at the property owner's expense. The Commissioners were in agreement to add the trail for the interchange area to Ash Street and terminating there. Krings noted that the Park Board minutes of May 28, 2007, that read as follows: "MOTION by Jacobs, second by O'Laughlin, to recommend that the City Council designate a trail route along the Highway 25 corridor from Main Street to the Minnesota river bridge. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED." At the June 4, 2007 City Council meeting, the Council determined that a Comprehensive Plan Amendment may be made to add the Highway 25 trail designation. The Commissioners also noted that the West Commerce Drive trail and the Hickory Boulevard trail should be changed from "proposed" designation to "existing" designation. The Provence on the River subdivision also has completed trails. The trail map was initially started in 2005, prior to the completion of the trails. Staff will forward the Park Board comments to the Community Development Director and Public Works Superintendent. Gransee-Bowman suggested that a connectivity map be prepared to help plan pedestrian travel. The connectivity map would include sidewalks and trail.

4.4. Long Term Parks Plan – Parks CIP.

Due to time constraints, this issue was not discussed and will be added to the next agenda.

5. ADMINISTRATION.

5.1. Upcoming Meetings.

1. Next Regular Meeting – 5:30 p.m. Monday, October 22, 2007.

The Commissioners were reminded of the upcoming meeting as listed.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION by Coop, second by Gransee-Bowman, to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Krings
Recording Secretary