

**BELLE PLAINE PARK BOARD  
REGULAR SESSION  
JUNE 23, 2008**

The Park Board Members met at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 23, 2008 at Chatfield Park (500 East State Street) and then traveled to the Highway 25 River Bridge.

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

The Belle Plaine Park Board met in Regular Session of Monday, June 23, 2008 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 Chris Kehr, Michelle Gransee-Bowman, Cary Coop and Alternate Kelly Norton present. Also present were Council liaisons Tim O'Laughlin and Tim Lies. Commissioners Dan Gardner and Jenna Tuma were not present.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

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

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. 3.1. Regular Session Minutes of May 27, 2008.**

MOTION by Lies, second by O'Laughlin, to approve the Regular Session Minutes of May 27, 2008 as presented. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

**4. BUSINESS.**

**4.1. Chatfield Park and Highway 25 Bridge Tour Review.**

The Commissioners discussed Chatfield Park. They recommended that the older equipment, including the merry-go-round, slide and swing set, be painted. It was suggested that Casey Mueller, who has requested a project for the Eagle Scout award, be advised of this project. Gransee-Bowman suggested that a bike rack and garbage can be installed on the east side of Chatfield Park. Further discussion on bike racks occurred later in the meeting.

The Park Board members supported the ordering of a feasibility report for the trail extension to the river bridge. Gransee-Bowman stated that she has contact information for a person at MnDOT regarding funding for trails. Gransee-Bowman will forward the information to staff. The Park Board was advised that the Planning Commission supported the idea of a feasibility report and recommended staff research MnDOT funding sources as well. Community Development Director Rosenfeld will serve as the City contact person with DNR/MnDOT.

**4.2. Park and Pool Signage.**

Staff has been investigating signage. Quotes for signs have been received from Earl F. Anderson and Promotion Graphics. Local artist Lana Beck commented that although she would like to do the sign, she believed it was in the best interest of the City to stay with the design in place for many of the existing parks. The Commissioners noted that the patio is not yet completed and the tennis court committee will be meeting soon. Due to the pending issues, the Commissioners believe it best to delay action on signage. Lies suggested that the Chamber of Commerce be asked to participate in the cost share of a sign at the pool.

The Commissioners further discussed park signage. Due to the high cost of the utility-type aluminum sign and lack of aesthetics, it was determined that the best choice for Hickory Park is the continuation of the cedar sign by Promotion Graphics. The quote amount was \$2,299 installed. The Commissioners

avored the smaller aluminum sign, 3' x 2" to identify the Blaha Bird Sanctuary and Creekside Park. Granssee-Bowman suggested that these signs be painted similarly as the cedar signs. Staff will make the request to Earl F. Anderson for another price quote.

MOTION by Coop, second by Jacobs, to recommend that the City Council authorize the purchase of a cedar 4' x 6' sign for Hickory Park from Promotion Graphics at a cost of \$2,299.00, including tax and installation. Furthermore, a recommendation is made to proceed with two aluminum signs, 3' x 2', from Earl F. Anderson for the Blaha Bird Sanctuary and Creekside Park, upon reasonable quote for enhanced colored design. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

#### **4.3. Bike Tour Update.**

Coop provided an overview of the first 2008 summer bike tour held on June 18, 2008. He said that everything went very well. There were approximately 35 participants. The weather was perfect, the traffic was managed well and the tour stops at The Lutheran Home, Fountain Park, Blaha Bird Sanctuary and Court Square were successful. The sub-committee will meet again to discuss the upcoming July 16<sup>th</sup> environmental bike tour.

#### **4.4. The Big Circle.**

Coop has learned that people are referencing a portion of the Beautiful Prairie Trail as the "Big Circle." He explained that there are approximately two blocks on South Chestnut that are missing sidewalk/trail for complete the designation of The Big Circle. The Big Circle includes the area on the Beautiful Prairie Trail to Hickory, along the interchange bridge and East Main Street, connecting with South Chestnut Street. It is approximately 3 ½ miles. Coop also noted that The Big Circle would tie in well with the trail extension through Veterans Park. Lies will suggest the addition of the South Chestnut for the Safe Routes to School grant application at the upcoming Public Works Committee meeting.

Granssee-Bowman asked for consideration of adding a bike lane on East Commerce Drive. Lies will bring this forward to the Public Works Committee. Coop suggested that a bike access be installed on the cul-de-sac at Raven and Walnut to allow for pedestrians and bicyclists. Lies will bring this idea to the Public Works Committee as well.

#### **4.5. Veterans Park Update.**

Coop will be contacting representatives of the Vet's Club to schedule a meeting in the near future. Sub-committee members include Gardner, Coop and Lies.

#### **4.6. Riverview Park Update.**

The Public Works Committee will be discussing the seeding and plantings for Riverview Park at their meeting on June 27.

#### **4.7. Tennis Court Update.**

There will be a tennis court committee meeting on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

#### **4.8. Boy Scout Request.**

Casey Mueller, Boy Scout Troop 619, has offered to do a city project. The Commissioners suggested that Casey Mueller organize the painting of the old playground equipment at Chatfield Park. Lies suggested that he also consider organizing the preservation of the prairie grasses near Chatfield

Elementary. Staff to ask the Public Works Superintendent about these projects and advise Casey Mueller accordingly.

#### **4.9. Lighting Update.**

The City Engineer has provided information that indicates that a majority of the lighting has been mapped for the City. However, some areas still need to be mapped. The Public Works Committee will be discussing the completion of this project at their meeting on June 27. If the Council approves the project, the City Engineer will have prepare a map with the inventory of overhead lighting. This map would help assist the Park Board in making recommendations regarding the installation of lighting. An update will be provided at the next Park Board meeting.

#### **4.10. Park Benches and Bike Racks.**

Staff included a quote for two bike racks and five park benches. The concrete pad is expected to cost \$300 for each item. The Park Board had previously prioritized the installation of the benches is as follows: 2 at Fountain, 2 at Chatfield, and 1 at Meadow. The bike racks as follows: 1 at Fountain and 1 at Chatfield.

Granssee-Bowman suggested bike racks at various parks. A discussion followed as to whether bike racks will be used. As a trial, a bike rack will be ordered for Fountain Park, near the ball field. Staff will work with Public Works for the placement. Granssee-Bowman suggested that Nero bike racks be checked for pricing.

In other business, Coop explained that the hockey boards need repair. He will be in contact with Pubic Works.

### **5. ADMINISTRATION.**

**5.1. Unaudited Financial Status Report.**

**5.2. Blakeley Bluff Regional Park Reserve.**

**5.3. Environmental Bike Tour July 16.**

**5.4. Next Regular Meeting – 5:00 p.m. Monday, July 2008.**

The Commissioners were reminded of the upcoming tour and meeting as listed.

### **6. ADJOURNMENT.**

Chari Jacobs adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Krings  
Recording Secretary