

**BELLE PLAINE PARK BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 18, 2016**

The annual tree planting ceremony was held at 5:00 p.m. Heritage Square. Council Liaison Cary Coop read the Arbor Day Proclamation with Commissioner Chris Kehr, Liann Hanson, Rachel Kelm, Kathy Joerg, Ben Stier and Alternate Nick Jensen present. Also present were City Administrator Holly Kreft and the families of Chris Kehr and Nick Jensen. The entourage then headed back to City Hall to conduct their monthly meeting.

City Administrator Holly Kreft informed the Commissioners of her resignation effective May 31, 2016 and thanked the Commissioners for their support.

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

The Belle Plaine Park Board met in Regular Session on Monday, April 18, 2016 at City Hall, 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, Minnesota. Chair Chris Kehr called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. with Commissioners Rachel Kelm, Liann Hanson, Kathy Joerg and Ben Stier present. Also present were Council liaison Cary Coop and City Administrator Kreft. Council Liaison Mike Pingalore was not present.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

MOTION by Joerg, second by Kehr, to approve the agenda as presented. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. 3.1. Regular Session Minutes of March 21, 2016.**

MOTION by Coop, second by Joerg, to approve the Regular Session Minutes of March 21, 2016 as presented. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

**4. TREASURERS REPORT. 4.1. 2016 Park Fund Budget Update.**

The Commissioners reviewed the status of the 205 Park Fund. City Administrator Kreft advised the City was awarded a \$5,600 grant from the DNR for Archery Park enhancements, with the City providing in-kind services.

**5. BUSINESS.**

**5.1. Update on Community Gardens.**

City Administrator Kreft explained that at the February 16<sup>th</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup> Park Board meetings, potential locations for community gardens were discussed. Due to concerns with access to light and potential vandalism, the vacant lot adjacent to the Library was not recommended. The Board discussed the potential of having a garden located at Court Square in the area of a garden previously maintained by the Historical Society. At the March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Board recommended to establish the community garden at Court Square pending verification of the location. Following their meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>, the Belle Plaine Historical Staff advised that the Society was opposed to the proposed location.

City Administrator Kreft advised that Staff is not going to pursue the project at this time. Funds may be available next year should the Park Board want to pursue this and identify a location prior to next year's growing season.

Council Liaison Coop commented that if the Historical Society does not clean up the flower bed area, the City should intervene and proceed with a community garden. Chair Kehr suggested this topic be presented at a future Park Board meeting for further discussion.

## **5.2. Update on Dog Park.**

City Administrator Kreft explained that at the February 16, 2016 Park Board meeting, Vivian Herrmann provided an update of the proposed amenities for the dog park as part of her Girl Scout Silver Award. At the March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, staff provided an update including the proposed amenities. Ms. Herrmann developed the layout for the placement of the amenities. She has received donations for some of the material including a set of weaving poles from the Minnesota Search and Rescue and wooden spools from Gregory Electric. She has requested that Public Works build the entrance ramp and install the bench. Upon completion of the installation of the amenities, a grand re-opening of the park will be hosted. It is planned for Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6-7 p.m. and will be called Yappy Hour. Staff will work with Ms. Herrmann to advertise the event.

The Commissioners were in agreement with the layout and equipment proposed. They concurred with the grand re-opening date of June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **5.3. Park Board Wish List Discussion.**

City Administrator Kreft explained that as part of the discussion with the DNR Outdoor Recreation grant and the upcoming 2040 Destination Belle Plaine Comprehensive Plan Update, it would be helpful if the Park Board did some brainstorming about future park improvements. The goals of the review include:

1. Identify priorities for improvements to existing parks
2. Identify priorities for new park development
3. Create projects that are "ready to go" should funding become available

City Administrator Kreft provided a PowerPoint with a brief background on the history of parks in Belle Plaine, a review of the existing parks, and some thoughts on future parks. Included with her memo were a compilation of the minutes from the 2012/2013 review by the Park Board and the Parks, Trails and Recreation Chapter from the 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

The Commissioners discussed the future park planning. Council Liaison Coop expressed concern for determining the location of a pool and community center. If it is determined that the pool and future expansion should occur at its current location, then it should be announced as such so all future planning accommodates the vision at this site. Commissioner Stier commented on the lack of maintenance and the hazards of the tennis courts. The Commissioners will continue with park planning at a future meeting.

## **6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.**

### **6.1. Commissioner Comments.**

### **6.2. Next Regular Meeting, Monday, May 16, 2016 5:00 PM.**

The Commissioners were reminded of the next meeting as listed.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT.**

MOTION by Coop, second by Kehr, to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Krings  
Recording Secretary