

**BELLE PLAINE PARK BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
OCTOBER 17, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER. 1.1. Roll Call.

The Belle Plaine Park Board met in Regular Session on Monday, October 17, 2016 at City Hall, 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, Minnesota. Chair Chris Kehr called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with Commissioners Liann Hanson, Nick Jensen, and Ben Stier present. Commissioner Rachel Kelm arrived at 5:09 p.m. Also present were Council Liaison Cary Coop, City Administrator Mike Votca, Interim City Administrator Dawn Meyer and Community Development Director Cynthia Smith Strack. Commissioner Kathy Joerg and Council Liaison Mike Pingalore were not present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

3.1. Regular Session Minutes of September 19, 2016.

MOTION by Coop, second by Kehr, to approve the Regular Session Minutes of September 19, 2016 as presented. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

3.2. Destination BP 2040 – Parks and Place Making, September 14, 2016.

MOTION by Coop, second by Hanson, to approve the minutes of Destination BP 2040 – Parks and Place Making, September 14, 2016. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

4. TREASURERS REPORT.

4.1. 2016 Park Fund Budget Update.

It was the consensus to accept the 2016 Park Fund Budget Update as presented.

5. BUSINESS.

5.1. Improvements to Land Adjacent to Library.

5.1.1. Letter from Brittany Taylor, Belle Plaine Library Manager.

Interim City Administrator Meyer explained the Park Board toured the vacant lot adjacent to the Community Library. After discussion at the subsequent meetings, the Park Board recommended improvements. The Public Works Committee reviewed the recommendation at their September meeting and directed Public Works Superintendent Fahey to proceed with cost estimates. Costs are estimated at a not to exceed price of \$7,500, which will be expended from the Park Fund 205. A sketch was included in the Commissioners' packets.

Coop explained that he met with Public Works Superintendent Fahey about this project and also spoke with adjacent property owner, Mike Daly. Mr. Daly was in support of the project and asked that an unwanted tree growing near the property line be removed during the construction process. Coop explained that a future library expansion is planned, but no definite time table has been set. Stier suggested a maintenance-free, solid fence rather than a wrought iron style. He believed it would add privacy. Coop will investigate this suggestion further. Jensen suggested that benches be purchased by sponsors. Coop replied the City has available park benches.

MOTION by Coop, second by Stier, to recommend the City Council proceed with improvements to the vacant land adjacent to the Community Library. Improvements include a concrete walk, in-ground concrete chess-board style 8'x8' pad, park benches and a fence, at a cost not to exceed \$7,500. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Rachel Kelm arrived at 5:09 p.m.

5.2. Sidewalk/Trail Extension.

- 1. Meridian Street South between Enterprise Drive and Orchard Street.**
- 2. The north side of Orchard Street.**
- 3. The 400 block of South Willow Street.**

Interim City Administrator Meyer explained that at their September 19th meeting, the Park Board recommended the Public Works Committee review the issue of extending the trail from Enterprise Drive overpass south to Century Street on the west side of Meridian Street. The other segments included in the recommendation were the area along South Willow Street between Stier Transportation and South Street Trail; the section along the north side of Orchard Street; and the 200 block of South Meridian Street. The Public Works Committee reviewed the request at their September 20th meeting and recommended the City Engineer prepare preliminary costs for the Meridian Street South extension and the Willow Street sidewalk. Further discussion on the 200 block of South Meridian Street will be added to a future agenda.

At the Public Works Committee meeting on October 4th, the City Engineer presented costs estimates as follows:

1. The west side of Meridian Street from the Enterprise Drive overpass south to Century Street is estimated at \$80,000 for the 2,600-foot section.
2. The extension of the trail along north side of Orchard Street is estimated at \$14,000 for the 210-foot segment.
3. The trail along the 400 block of South Willow Street is estimated at \$12,000 for the 360-foot concrete section. The small segment from Stier Transportation to the South Street Trail is estimated at \$2,500. This segment was not recommended for improvement by the Public Works Committee at this time.

Interim City Administrator Meyer further explained the Public Works Committee discussed a trail extension from the Veterans Park underpass east along Enterprise Drive to Laredo Street. The City Engineer provided aerial photos that indicated very limited right-of-way for the implementation of a trail.

Coop reported the Public Works Committee had discussions about adding a right-turn lane from the Enterprise Drive Overpass onto South Meridian Street to improve traffic flow at that intersection. If constructed, it would impact a small portion of the proposed trail.

5.2.1. Trail along the west side of Meridian Street from the Enterprise Drive overpass south to Century Street is estimated at \$80,000 for the 2,600-foot section.

Interim City Administrator Meyer said it may be possible to include this segment as part of the 2017 street improvement project. A portion of the funds would be expended from the 205 Park Fund.

MOTION by Coop, second by Hanson, to include the proposed construction of a trail along the west side of South Meridian Street from Enterprise Drive overpass to Century Street in the feasibility report for the 2017 street improvement project. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

5.2.2. The extension of the trail along north side of Orchard Street is estimated at \$14,000 for the 210-foot segment.

Coop inquired as to reason for the high cost of this segment. Interim City Administrator Meyer explained it appears to be a narrow right-of-way and perhaps some hindrances such as an electrical pole. Stier commented on the large expense of this 210-foot segment. He has observed school-age children walking through the apartment complex, traveling to the north, rather than continuing west along Orchard Street. Stier suggested the owner of the Belle Meadow Townhome property be asked for an easement to allow a trail through the property.

MOTION by Hanson, second by Kehr, recommend the City Council include the trail extension along the parcel at 711 South Meridian Street, along the north side of East Orchard Street, in the feasibility report for the 2017 street improvement project. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION by Stier, second by Coop, to direct Staff to contact the owner of the Belle Meadow Townhome complex regarding a trail easement through their property. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

5.2.3. The trail along the 400 block of South Willow Street is estimated at \$12,000 for the 360-foot concrete section. The small segment from Stier Transportation to the South Street Trail is estimated at \$2,500. This segment was not recommended for improvement by the Public Works Committee at this time.

The Commissioners briefly discussed the implementation of a trail along the 400 block of South Willow Street at a cost of \$12,000. It was the consensus of the Commission to accept the Public Works Committee recommendation to forego the trail extension at this time.

Coop requested Staff provide the aerial photos of East Enterprise Drive for the next Park Board meeting that shows the available right-of-way for a future sidewalk/trail. Stier commented on routing the trail along South Street. Coop inquired about platted Elm Street. The Commissioners requested Staff to provide maps of these areas as well.

5.3. Debrief/Recap of Parks and Place Making Tour of September 14, 2016.

Community Development Director Cynthia Smith Strack provided a Power Point presentation which summarized the Parks and Place Making Tour on September 14, 2016. The tour served as an information-gathering for the Destination BP 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update. She related the information provided each of the individuals as to why they chose a particular location as their favorite spot. There was a sharing of ideas as Community Development Director Smith Strack related the highlights of each destination.

5.4. Discussion on Winter Recreation.

Krings explained that at a previous meeting, Commissioner Ben Stier has suggested the Park Board investigate the implementation of a sliding hill. She also asked for discussion on other potential winter recreational ideas.

Stier said there is a potential to create a sliding area near the Provence on the River subdivision. Another area to be considered would be near Archery Park, on land owned by Scott County.

This issue will be placed on a future agenda for further discussion.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

6.1. Commissioner Comments.

There were no further Commissioner comments.

6.2. Next Regular Meeting, 5:00 P.M. November 21, 2016.

The Commissioners were reminded of the next meeting as listed.

7. ADJOURN.

MOTION by Stier, second by Kehr, to adjourn at 6:05 p.m. ALL VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Krings
Recording Secretary