



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Service Center
April 18, 2012
7:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Steve Stidhem-Chair, Mel Ehrlich-Vice Chair, Chris Clinton, Ingrid Grass, Ned McCoy and Megan Stevens

Members absent: Todd Keiner

Staff members present: Matt Earman and Fred Hahn

Guests present: None

Public participants present: None

Recording Secretary: Marja Keplar

I. Call to Order

Mr. McCoy called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. Oath of Office

Marja Keplar swore in Megan Stevens. All commission members and staff liaisons provided a brief introduction for Ms. Stevens.

III. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. McCoy said the commission needs to elect a new chair and vice chair. *Mr. McCoy said he would like to make a motion to nominate Mr. Stidhem for Chair.* Mr. McCoy said he realizes that since he has served as vice chair and acting chair, that he might be nominated as the next chair, he does not feel he could give 100% because of his work and travel. He missed a few meetings last year and will probably have to miss a few meetings because of work, so he would rather have someone that is committed and he feels that Mr. Stidhem would be very committed to the position as chair and has the right interest for this position. He said he could stay on as vice chair or if someone else is interested, that would be fine also.

Mr. Stidhem said he would be honored to take on the position of chair. *Ms. Grass seconded the motion to nominate Mr. Stidhem as chair. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 6-0.*

Mr. Stidhem said that Mr. McCoy has offered to stay on as vice chair, but if there is someone else that is interested he would be happy to let someone else fill that role.

Mr. Ehrlich said he would take on the role as vice chair. *Mr. Stidhem made a motion to nominate Mr. Ehrlich as vice chair. Ms. Grass seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 6-0.*

IV. Approval of March Meeting Minutes

Mr. McCoy asked if anyone had changes for the March meeting minutes.

Ms. Stevens said she did not receive the March minutes. Ms. Keplar said she thought she had e-mailed to them to Ms. Stevens and Mr. Keiner, but would check and e-mail them the next day. *A motion was made by Mr. Ehrlich and seconded by Mr. Clinton to accept the minutes from the March meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.*

V. Public Comment Items Not on the Agenda

None

VI. 2012 Items of Interest Updates

Mr. Stidhem asked if there any updates.

Mr. McCoy said he is still working on paths in Dublin. He is waiting on some information from Mr. Hahn and staff.

Mr. Hahn said he met with the City of Dublin's GIS department. Mr. Hahn said GIS provided a brief presentation to him on what they are pursuing. They are working on a map of foot trails and access points. When you click on the icons there will be drop down information and photos. It will have trail maps and more. They were planning on presenting at the next meeting. They are very excited about this project. They wanted to take it beyond just the map.

Mr. McCoy said he was looking for a map to put on the website similar to the bike path and park maps so people can see these. Also, there seem to be some needed connectivity and river access. It will be great to see a map of what we have.

Mr. Hahn said he encourages this commission to be thinking as the end users when the presentation is given at the May 16th meeting.

Ms. Grass said she has been working on seeing how to get some of the cross walks more visible and she was thinking about the bridge in the Tartan area on Concord Road. Instead of a bridge tunnel if the City has considered overhead pedestrian bridges like the one in the Tartan area.

Mr. Hahn said he does not believe that it has even been discussed. Mr. Hahn said he was not sure how to access the bikepath on Concord Road.

Mr. McCoy said it is a private path. You access through the golf course.

Mr. Ehrlich said that last year he had discussed with Mr. Hahn about marking the bikepath around the pavilion at Coffman Park. He doesn't think it has been completed yet.

Mr. Hahn said he would talk to staff and get it done this spring.

Mr. Stidhem said he would like to go through the 2012 items of interest and see where everyone is on their projects and discuss what the next steps are for each one.

Mr. Stidhem said he provided a presentation last month on community gardens. He is not sure what the next steps are for that project other than to present it Council for their review?

Mr. Hahn said he talked to another staff member regarding community gardens. Someone who has expressed past interest in this project; has decided she would like to work on this project. The next step would be to get the final report together for Council. Some of the factors would be neighborhood versus centralized location, water usage, etc.

Mr. Stidhem said what he would like to do with each item of interest is to have a short term plan and some type of closure on them, so they are not just lingering out there for years at a time. We should develop and action plan on what to do next.

Mr. McCoy asked Mr. Stidhem what this commission would need to ask Council to do to move forward on community gardens.

Mr. Stidhem said we will need to provide an action plan for Council and work with staff to determine what the correct approach would be.

Mr. McCoy asked if there is funding in the CIP budget for this year.

Mr. Hahn said there should be no need of CIP funds. It would more than likely come out of the Parks operating budget. We need to get direction from Council on how they would like to proceed based on the exact costs on various options, maintenance of the gardens and what the appropriate next steps would be.

Mr. McCoy asked if the commission needs approval from Council to move forward with a community garden. He asked if Mr. Hahn feels the budget is available, and would just need to be prioritized accordingly.

Mr. Hahn said yes, the commission does need to have approval from Council to move forward.

Mr. Stidhem suggested sending the presentation to Council electronically; then if they would like a presentation he could provide one.

Mr. McCoy said recommends giving a presentation. They probably receive so much to read over and sometimes it is better to actually take five minutes to provide the information to them.

Mr. Stidhem asked the commission if we do decide to make presentations to Council on items of interest, does the commission want Mr. Stidhem to provide the presentation or should the person that did the research do the presentation.

Mr. McCoy said the decision could be made at the time it is determined to make a presentation to Council.

Mr. Hahn said there will not always be a need for a presentation. For example, there will not be a need for a presentation to Council regarding hiking trails. This commission is only providing discussion and suggestions for enhancements. The topic of community gardens though, could have some controversy.

Mr. Stidhem said he doesn't really have any update regarding dog parks. It was discussed a few months ago and Mr. Hahn said staff may have a potential idea.

Mr. Hahn said there is a possible potential location on the east side of the river, but it is still in discussion.

Mr. Stidhem said he would like for everyone to provide an update, so it can be included in the minutes every month. Mr. Stidhem said there isn't any change in community gardens or with the dog parks.

Mr. Erlich said Mr. Hahn is going to get the path marked by the Coffman Pavilion. Mr. Erlich asked Mr. Earman if they could get some publicity out to the 40+ group about the pickle ball courts. He asked Mr. Earman if he should contact Patty Rinella.

Mr. Earman said he has already discussed this with Ms. Rinella. He will follow-up with her and provide an update at the next meeting.

Mr. Clinton said the Nike soccer tournament is in town this weekend. It is one of the largest soccer tournaments in the Midwest. There was an article in the newspaper about what great impact tournaments have on the economics of the community.

Mr. Clinton asked if there was a new lightning warning system at Avery. Mr. Hahn said he will provide information when they get to staff updates.

Mr. Stidhem asked Mr. Clinton if he had an update on his items of interest.

Mr. Clinton said he was to work on stream cleanup with Ms. Grass.

Ms. Grass said she needs to follow-up with the Boy Scout troop that is working on the stream cleanup.

VII. Staff Updates

Mr. Hahn said there is a new lightning prediction system, instead of a lightning detection system, out at Avery Park, Darree Fields, Emerald Fields, both outdoor pools and the Ballantrae Spray Park. There is a very loud warning system if the conditions warrant it. The difference between the old system and this new system is that with the new system each lightning prediction system is a standalone device rather than the centralized system that we had. The old system was used with Doppler radar, which means there may have been lightning at Emerald Fields, but the detection system would also go off at Darree Fields, whereas now if there is only lightning in the area of Emerald, then the alarm will only go off at Emerald. Both golf courses in Muirfield already use this type of system. If the horn goes off and the strobe goes on continuously, then that means it is time to seek shelter. Once it is clear the horn will give three quick sounds and then you can resume play. There is signage at the parks regarding how it works. The system at the pools and the spray park are not active yet. They will be turned on once they are open for the season.

Mr. Clinton said some organizations have certain policies about staying off the fields for 30 minutes after the warnings are turned off. He asked if it was safe to go back on the fields after the signal has turned off.

Mr. Hahn replied that once the horn signals three times, then the system is showing it is safe. People still need to use their best judgment on safety.

Mr. Hahn reminded the commission about the Thaddeus Kosciuszko Park dedication on May 12th. Everyone should be getting their invitations soon. Shuttle service will start at 10:00 a.m. shuttling people from Scioto Park, which is where parking will be, to the Thaddeus Kosciuszko Park. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. There will also be a dedication ceremony sometime this summer for Amberleigh Park.

Mr. Stidhem asked if the commission members should wear the new name tags to the ceremony.

Mr. Hahn said Ms. Keplar issued name tags for all of the commission members, which staff also has the same name tags. It is recommended to wear them anytime a member of the commission is attending an event where they are representing the City of Dublin.

Mr. Stidhem said the Coffman Park Pavilion is being used a lot for graduation parties. He asked Mr. Earman if the City provides volleyball equipment, etc for use at the pavilion when someone reserves it.

Mr. Earman said the City does not provide equipment. If it has been out there, then someone has brought their own volleyball net.

Mr. Earman said staff is getting ready for the summer season. Staff is still working with the schools on resource sharing. There is not much to update yet, but hopefully within the next few months, there will be more of an update.

Mr. Earman said the agreement between the City and the Dublin Soccer League (DSL) will expire this July, so by July the contract will be reviewed and/or rewritten and then presented to Council for approval. He said he will likely share that with this group once complete. He indicated that DSL is currently enhancing their programming, but does not anticipate much language change will be necessary to accommodate the changes.

Mr. Hahn said the Bridge Street Corridor Development Code was passed by Council a few weeks ago; then at the last meeting Council approved the Bridge Street Corridor zoning. This is a 20-40 year project. This commission is going to have a role for the parks and recreation in this area.

VIII. New Business/Round Table

Mr. Clinton said the company that provides Wi-Fi for the City is also providing free Wi-Fi service in the business area of Historic Dublin. He does not know all details of how it works, but he believes they would be willing to do the same in the parks if they were encouraged to do so.

Mr. Earman said he thought there was a Wi-Fi connection at the north end of Avery. He is not sure if there is public access, but he said there should be a repeater there because he believes that is what they use for the Wi-Fi at the north pool.

Mr. Erhlich asked if there was Wi-Fi at the recreation center and Coffman Park.

Mr. Earman said there is Wi-Fi at the recreation center, but he is not sure there is at Coffman Park.

Mr. Stidhem said there is at the recreation center, but not in the work out area.

Mr. Earman asked Mr. Stidhem if he has tried to use Wi-Fi in the work out area lately. The City's IT department said it has been connected and it should be working.

Mr. Stidhem said it has been a while since he has tried, but he will try it and let Mr. Earman know. Mr. Stidhem thought they had discussed Wi-Fi in the parks at a prior commission meeting and the answer was no.

Mr. Hahn said he does recall the discussion. He also remembers that he asked someone in the City and the answer was no, but he is not sure what the reason was.

Mr. Clinton said he will look into this further.

Mr. Stidhem would like to go through each item of interest and get to a point where we can determine the next steps and modify as needed. This will also provide the new members the opportunity to be included if there is an item they would like to work on.

Mr. Ehrlich commented on the economic impact that parks and recreation has on communities. He said the Villages where they go to in Florida sell real estate. There is another development outside of the Villages approximately a quarter mile away. Schools are not a factor in either case. In the Village a house cost \$300,000 where there are excellent parks and recreation amenities. The exact same house outside of the village that is a quarter mile away cost \$220,000. There is not recreation surrounding the outside community. This is a great way to measure how parks and recreation has an impact on communities. Also, the Villages had three quarters of one percent of the total new homes built in the United States in 2010.

Ms. Grass said she is still looking into bridges in Dublin and will follow-up with the boy scouts for the next meeting.

Mr. Stidhem said he would like for the commission to have an annual calendar with locations. He is aware that Ms. Keplar publishes the annual list of meetings, but he would like to have it on everyone's calendars. He would like to have calendar invites sent out to everyone.

Ms. Keplar said the City uses Groupwise for e-mail and calendars. We do not use Microsoft Outlook, which most people use, so it may not work for if you have Outlook. Ms. Keplar said she does also put the location on the agenda when she sends it out. Typically our meetings will be in Council Chambers unless there is a budget meeting or another commission meeting already scheduled. If there are any changes to the meeting location it will be noted in the e-mail and agenda.

Mr. Stidhem would like to schedule in advance the outside organizations that come in to talk to the commission such as the Dublin Soccer League.

Mr. Earman said they usually attend in November.

IX. Agenda for Next Meeting: May 16, 2012

Mr. Stidhem said the agenda for next month should include the Oath of Office for Todd Keiner. We can provide updates on items of interest. Mr. Clinton will provide an update on the parks.

Ms. Grass would like to provide a brief PowerPoint regarding crosswalks/bridges at the next meeting.

Mr. McCoy said he will provide an update on trails in June, as he will not be at the May meeting.

Mr. Hahn said he will talk to GIS and see if they can wait until June to present their project on walking trails.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marja Keplar, CAP-OM
Administrative Assistant

Attachments: None