

City of Hastings
Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes
Special Meeting – Parks & Recreation Office
May 25, 2011 – 6:00 pm

- 1) **Roll Call at 6 pm:** Commissioners Garrett, Juntunen, Hedin, and Smith, Parks & Recreation Director Bernstein
Absent: Commissioners Miller, Schossow, and Schommer, Maintenance Supervisor Likes

- 2) **MN/WI Playground Presentation:** Director Bernstein explained that after discussing the PRC's recommendation to go forward with the playground equipment from Webber Recreational Design, the Parks & Recreation Committee of Council requested that a design from another company be sought for comparison before making any final decisions. This evening, Eric Denning from MN/WI Playgrounds presented options for playground equipment at both Westwood and Cari Parks. The brand of playground equipment his company deals with is GameTime. One of the unique features of GameTime equipment is their Powerlock connector system – all of the bolts are interior with pre-drilled holes. There are no clamps or holes that need to be drilled in the equipment during installation. This makes it easier for volunteers to install the equipment. There is a lifetime warranty on all of the pipes, fittings, etc. and a 15-year warranty on all of the plastic parts, decks, etc.
Two options were presented for each park – one with swings and one without swings. There are many different color options available for all equipment. Some of the options included in all of the designs are a Tilted Sky Runner (similar to an elevated merry-go-round kids can hang on), various types of slides and climbers, rock climbing wall, and an Xcelerator, which is a piece kids can get on and spin.
For an 8' equipment height, there needs to be 8" deep resilient material for fall protection. The quotes all include this resilient material, along with a supervisor to assist in installation.
To address the need for security at Cari Park, GameTime has partnered with ADT to provide video surveillance. There would be four camera placed around the equipment, each with its own protective dome around it. The cameras are equipped with 1 TB of memory, which would store between 1 ½ to 3 weeks of video surveillance. There are also DVD burners included so that we could go back and save the video footage if there was a problem. The cameras are both day and night vision.
Mr. Denning also explained that while swings are a popular inclusion in playgrounds, due to safety guidelines and standards, they do take up quite a bit of room. For a set with an 8' top rail, there needs to be 16' in front and 16' behind the set for safety. This area, although dead space, still needs to be filled with resilient material in case of falls. Commissioner Smith asked how long on average before the plastic parts of the equipment wear out. It ultimately depends on how much use the equipment gets, but average sets still look good after 15-20 years.
Mr. Denning will be emailing copies of the various playground designs along with a listing of nearby areas where GameTime equipment has been installed. This information will be forwarded to all of the commissioners for review. After Mr. Denning's presentation, the PRC commissioners present discussed a few of the options briefly. There was concern regarding the security system. Some felt that video cameras might be too intrusive. The Sonic Screen and accent lighting on the proposed Miracle equipment is more of a vandalism deterrent, whereas a video camera system is more for trying to catch vandals in the act. Mr. Bernstein also mentioned that in the past when the City has been able to prosecute vandals, there is very little compensation recovered for the equipment that was destroyed.
The consensus of the commissioners present was to hold off on making a recommendation until the June 14 PRC meeting to give the PRC time to think about it and compare the two companies.

MOTION to adjourn.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 14, 2011; City Hall Council Chambers

Adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Kristin Behrens