

City of Hastings
Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers
September 13, 2011 – 6:00 PM

- 1) **Roll Call at 6 pm:** Commissioners Garrett, Hedin, Juntunen, Miller, Schommer, Smith & Schossow, Parks & Recreation Director Bernstein
Absent: Maintenance Supervisor Likes
- 2) **June Minutes:**
Motion to approve June 14th minutes as presented by Miller. Seconded by Hedin. Passed unanimously.
Motion to approve June 22nd special meeting minutes as presented by Miller. Seconded by Schossow. Passed unanimously.
- 3) **Setting Agenda:** No changes to agenda.
- 4) **Departmental Updates:** Departmental Updates were passed out and briefly reviewed. Bernstein added maintenance staff has had a very busy summer keeping up with mowing and all of the projects that are being done in-house instead of being contracted out. The HFAC had a good year despite the bad weather in June. More numbers on the 2011 season will be included in next month's packet as well as in the Year End Report.
- 5) **Lake Isabel Dock:** The water at Lake Isabel finally came down enough to install the dock/fishing pier about a week ago. Staff noticed it being well used almost immediately by the public. Staff is looking at ways to improve winter storage for the dock.
- 6) **County 46/47 Trail Update:** Staff worked with the majority property owner, Mr. Willie Bauer, to determine the placement of the new trail from Pleasant Avenue to the Vermillion River along the County Road. Initially, Mr. Bauer preferred that the trail be placed along County Road right-of-way and staff began to pursue the necessary documentation for our DNR grant. Then, Mr. Bauer had a change of heart and decided he would prefer the trail along the north end of the property by the river. Staff had to switch gears and contact the various regulatory agencies to get the necessary permits and studies for this new trail location. The required items that had to be done included a wetland delineation study, a survey of rare species, and an archeological survey. The wetland delineation and rare species survey have been completed. The archeological study has been done but we are awaiting the final report. Although three sites of relevance were determined along the trail route, staff was informed by the archeological company that the items are not in great enough quantities to affect the trail progress. The final report has to go to SHPO (State Historical Preservation Office) before we can proceed with trail clearing, survey work, etc. SHPO has a 30 day turnaround time, but staff has been in contact with them hoping to expedite the approval due to a tight timeline this fall. If the preparatory work can be completed this fall, staff is hoping to start trail construction in early spring of 2012. It will be a beautiful addition to the City's trail system. Miller asked about the trail crossing on Cty Rd 46/47. Staff is planning to utilize the existing bridge over the Vermillion River for an underpass, similar to the one on Highway 61.
- 7) **Westwood & Cari Parks:** The play equipment has been removed and the new concrete playground border installed at each park. The infield at Cari Park has been graded. The volunteer installations have been scheduled for a Thursday-Friday install. Originally staff was hoping to have a weekend installation, but due to scheduling conflicts it was decided to utilize weekdays. The entire Parks maintenance staff will be present for the installations and staff is notifying volunteers through email, Facebook and Twitter about the upcoming projects. The Cari Park installation will take place on Sept 29-30 and the Westwood Park install will take place on Oct 6-7. Work will be scheduled from 7:00am-5:00pm for all days. The security lighting at Cari Park has been included in the playground equipment. The additional trail lighting that the neighborhood requested will not be able to be installed this year due to cost and power issues. Bernstein is still researching future options to install trail lighting in the future. After the playground is installed at Cari, staff will work on the trail upgrade on the west side of the equipment.
- 8) **City Survey:** The recent City survey included Parks & Recreation Services. The presentation that was given to City Council was an overview and the City came off very well. A more comprehensive report of the survey is being prepared and will show more detailed information regarding our services. This report will be forwarded to the PRC once staff receives it.
- 9) **New Business:** None
- 10) **Old Business:** None

MOTION to adjourn.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 11, 2011; 6:00 PM; City Hall Council Chambers

Adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Kristin Behrens