

City of Hastings
Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers
January 10, 2012 – 6:00 PM UNAPPROVED

- 1) **Roll Call at 6 pm:** Commissioners Hawkins, Polehna, Schommer, Smith, Juntunen, Miller & Schossow, Parks & Recreation Director Bernstein
- Welcome to new commissioners Stacie Hawkins and Jordan Polehna
- 2) **December Minutes:**
Motion to approve December minutes as presented by Smith. Seconded by Juntunen. Passed unanimously.
- 3) **Setting Agenda:** No changes to the agenda.
- 4) **HEP Presentation:** Kevin Smith and Phil Vieth from the Hastings Environmental Protectors presented the results of a bicycle survey the group did recently in an effort to promote bikes and other forms of non-motorized transportation. HEP mentioned that they are interested in partnering with other organizations like the Bicycle Alliance of MN, MN Complete Streets, Dakota County, and others to advance bicycling in Hastings. The HEP group urged the PRC to partner with them to promote biking – by leading rides, offering education and safety training, etc. The survey itself consisted of about 33 responses from people who were approached at the Rivertown Days bike corral and the YMCA. Commissioner Polehna asked if there was any way to get more responses to the survey. The Parks & Recreation Department will use the HEP survey to develop a Survey Monkey survey and will post it on the website, Facebook, etc. in an effort to get more people to fill it out. Director Bernstein said that there are four additional bike racks that were purchased with grant money the department received. They are period style so that they will fit in with our historic downtown. Staff will make an effort to get those installed in the spring. Anyone interested in joining HEP or learning more can visit their website at www.hastenviropro.org. Phil Vieth also suggested that the Hastings PD could publicize bike laws and safety tips in the paper. It would also be good to promote a bike safety tip of the week or month in our city publications.
- 5) **Departmental Updates:** Department updates were reviewed with the commissioners. Credit was given to our maintenance staff for trying diligently to flood the rinks even though the temperatures have been so warm. Hastings had all of our rinks open much sooner than other communities due to their hard work. The vandalism at the HFAC has been estimated at \$10,000-\$15,000. Lights are now being left on at night to try to deter future vandalism. Repairs will be made before the pool opens for 2012. With the mild winter, our staff has been able to get some tree trimming done, since there hasn't been much snow to plow.
- 6) **Parks & Recreation Survey:** The survey that was done as a result of the SHIP grant we received was very positive overall. However, Director Bernstein would like to use the data we received to see areas where we could improve or close the gap between the positive and negative responses. He asked the PRC their preference regarding how to review and implement ideas based on the survey results. Commissioner Schossow suggested reviewing the Parks Master Plan as well so that there isn't duplication of efforts with projects that are already in the plan. After discussion, the PRC decided it would be best to have a sub-committee to discuss the initial results of the survey and narrow down some topics for the PRC to focus on as a whole. Commissioners Schossow, Juntunen, Smith, and Miller requested to sit on the sub-committee. Director Bernstein will schedule a date for the meeting with those commissioners and results will be discussed at the next scheduled PRC meeting.
- 7) **New Business:** None
- 8) **Old Business:** Bernstein mentioned that the new trail enhancement on Cty Rd 46/47 is being worked on and he expects the plans to be drawn up this month. Also, the upgraded boat launch plans will be available soon. Staff will attempt to “band-aid” the launch for the boating season this spring and then there will be a full closure after Labor Day so that the full repairs can be made.

MOTION to adjourn.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 14, 2012; 6:00 PM; City Hall Council Chambers

Adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Kristin Behrens