

City of Hastings
Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers
March 13, 2012 – 6:00 PM UNAPPROVED

- 1) **Roll Call at 6 pm:** Commissioners Hawkins, Hedin, Polehna, Juntunen, Kimmen & Schossow, Parks & Recreation Director Bernstein
Absent: Commissioners Smith & Miller
- 2) **February Minutes:** Motion to approve February minutes as presented by Schossow. Seconded by Hedin. Passed unanimously.
- 3) **Setting Agenda:** No changes to the agenda.
- 4) **Departmental Updates:** Department updates were reviewed with the commissioners. Polehna asked about the ice fishing event at Lake Rebecca. About 30-40 people showed up mid-Feb for the Ice Fishing event by the National Park Service. Tennis courts will be repaired during April and will be out of service for about 2-3 weeks while those repairs are being made. With the nice weather, many of our activities have gotten an early start. Trying to get equipment ready, tennis nets up, etc. Signups for softball came in early and are going very well.
- 5) **County Road 46-47 Trail Update:** Map of the projected alignment for County Road 46-47 trail was reviewed. Conducted a neighborhood meeting and invited residents on both south and north side of the trail as well as those along Pleasant Avenue. Two people attended the meeting. Mr. Nygaard had concerns about screening his home as it sits very close to the property line. A 50 foot easement was discussed and the trail would be pushed to the 45 foot mark to try to give Mr. Nygaard as much space as possible and then create some type of natural barrier. The Schmidts were concerned with easement issues and the legal team and staff is working that out with them. There have been no major concerns that can't be addressed. Staff met with Dakota County last week – the County is bringing approximately 20% of cost share outside of any right-of-way. There is also some Safety Abatement money that will assist with the underpass. The city will use the grant we were awarded along with money that has been set aside for this purpose and some Park Dedication funds. Very optimistic that the Council will approve funding sources. If so, contracts will be let out late March, early April with a completion in July. We have to spend \$100k to get the \$100k grant money by June 30th. Polehna asked about high water with the underpass. Just like the Hwy 61 underpass, it will be engineered to flood out. We will have to close it in this event. Usually just 3-4 days of closure. Schossow asked if there will be some trail crossing marked on Pleasant. There will be a crosswalk with signs for trail crossing on the southern crossing on Pleasant where the site lines are better. An underpass would have been preferred, but is currently unaffordable. Funding options will go before Council on the 19th. Polehna asked if there had been any consideration of the trail crossing on south side of Southview. There is an existing sidewalk there that will be changed to bituminous.
- 6) **Bike Survey Results:** The City sent out a survey in conjunction with the HEP bike survey. The results are very consistent with the HEP survey. We got 33 responses and HEP got 33 responses for a total of 66. Survey results were included with the packet for review.
- 7) **Year End Report:** The Parks & Recreation Year End Report was briefly reviewed. Some of the highlights were:
 - We continue to receive donations for memorial benches, picnic tables, and trees.
 - Two playgrounds were replaced at Cari & Westwood Parks.
 - Bituminous was installed at Eagle Bluff Park for the basketball court.
 - Chevy Diamonds & Dreams project was completed except for the pitcher's mound, which will be completed this spring.
 - In 2013, some of the water access along the river may need to be closed for the floating in of the bridge span.
 - EAB is still a concern, but it hasn't reached Hastings yet.
 - Tree pruning and trimming was completed with the mild winter.
 - New swim lessons were introduced at HFAC which were very successful.
 - Just under 40% of our community uses the HFAC which is phenomenal.
 - Civic Arena is working closely with the HHB. We work together to promote hockey, skating, and use of our Arena.
 - Booked over 4,200 hours for ice and dry floor last year. Seeing a drop-off in non-peak rental hours. A lot of other arenas have been built up in the area that may be taking some of these hours.
 - 79 adult softball teams in 2011 & over 2,900 field rentals
 - Vet's Park concession stand is producing a profit and is providing a service to our community.
 - Parks & Trails Clean Up is a popular event and staff appreciates the help of the community.
- 8) **New Business:** The City applied for a Federal Transportation Trail Enhancement grant for some trail connections off of the Vermillion River Gorge by CP Adams Park along CR 291. The ranking of the projects came out and ours was fourth on the

list which is amazing. If there is a transportation bill, usually the top 12-14 projects receive funding. This would be a 2014-2015 project. The Point Douglas trail scored seventh.

9) **Old Business:** None

MOTION to adjourn.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 10, 2012; 6:00 PM; City Hall Council Chambers

Adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Kristin Behrens