

**City of Hastings**  
**Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes**  
**City Hall Council Chambers**  
**June 12, 2012 – 6:00 PM UNAPPROVED**

- 1) **Roll Call at 6 pm:** Commissioners Hawkins, Hedin, Miller, Schossow, Polehna, and Juntunen, Parks & Recreation Director Bernstein, PRC Secretary Behrens  
Absent: Commissioners Smith & Kimmen
- 2) **March Minutes:** Motion to approve April minutes as presented by Miller. Seconded by Schossow. Passed unanimously.
- 3) **Setting Agenda:** No additions to agenda.
- 4) **Departmental Updates:** Department updates were reviewed with the commissioners. The water has been too high to install the dock at Lake Isabel, but staff is watching it closely. We had a very good opening attendance at the Hastings Family Aquatic Center.
- 5) **Boat Launch:** The boat launch at Jaycee Park is a joint venture between the City and the MN DNR which was originally built using boat licensing fee revenue. Over the last few years, an eddy has been created which has eroded the end of the launch. One lane has been closed during that time. The DNR has submitted plans for repairs/upgrades to the boat launch which are anticipated to be finished this fall. The launch will stay in the same location. Improvements to the area include: repaving the main east parking lot, paving the west parking lot and adding a turn-around, removing the wooden bollards, adding retention ponds and grading so that runoff goes away from the river, modifying the center island, widening to the south of the island for a place to pull over and check for invasive species, and putting a grate on the ramp to catch water runoff and divert it to the center island. The cost of the project is approximately \$324,000 which is being covered completely by the DNR. If the DNR ends up with budget shortfalls, these plans could still be modified. Polehna asked about power loading boats and also about extending the ramp to prevent future erosion. After Labor Day, the launch will be closed and a cofferdam created. The ramp will be extended farther out than it currently is. We expect the project to take about 3 weeks.
- 6) **Corps Dredging Area:** There has been a 20 year agreement with the Corps of Engineers to store dredging material, primarily sand, from the lock and dam in the Hastings River Flats area (where the bridge staging area is currently). The Corps has approached the City about entering into another agreement. Bernstein is concerned whether this natural prairie area which was created by many volunteer efforts and which will be replaced after the bridge construction is the best place for this type of storage. Before the bridge staging area, there was a large pile of dredging spoils being stored there. In the past, contractors would use the spoils for clean fill and the pile would get used. However, with the economic slowdown, the dredging spoils began to just pile up and sit in that area. Schossow asked how often they dredge – approximately every 2-3 years. The Corps has requested a 4 acre area for storage, which could accommodate a lot of dredging spoils. Hawkins asked if there was any benefit to the City. The City receives no financial gain or compensation for this agreement, although our Public Works Department has used Corps services for other projects. When the Corps was asked by staff if there was any other place in the city that could be used for storage, they indicated that City staff should look into other options. Although City Staff wants to be cooperative with the Corps, they feel it is the Corp's responsibility to come up with alternative storage sites. After more discussion, the commissioners indicated that staff should request the Corps to look into alternative sites before any sort of storage agreement for the Hastings River Flats area is reached.
- 7) **Budget CIP:** The Parks and Recreation Department annually reviews a list of proposed capital improvement projects which was submitted for the commissioners' review. Not all projects get funded in the year they are listed and the costs are hard costs – if we could get a grant that would subsidize the amount. Staff generally adds 3% each year to account for inflation. Any questions on the list can be directed to Director Bernstein.
- 8) **Playground Proposals:** The play equipment at Crestview Park is scheduled to be replaced this year. Director Bernstein invited three companies to present proposals at the PRC meeting. One of the companies was unable to attend at the last minute, so two presentations, one from MN/WI Playground and one from Webber Recreation, were heard. After both proposals were heard, the PRC discussed the various options. It was decided that the playground option from MN/WI Playground was more unique and that it would be a good addition to our park infrastructure. It will include Xscape equipment for both 5-12 year olds and 2-5 year olds, and a swing set with 4 seats. Xscape equipment is all ground level with no decks, and is designed to help children develop upper body strength. Schossow asked about including benches around the playground. If we purchase them to install right away, we would have to lessen the amount we spend putting in the equipment. Another option is to utilize our Memorial Bench program and install benches in this location when we receive donations. Another concern was that there wasn't much to do for kids who are in wheelchairs or are otherwise limited. A request was made to add some lower manipulative pieces for kids to play with to increase accessibility and possibly something similar to the Sit and Spin option in the Webber Recreation proposal.  
**MOTION:** Miller motioned to recommend the Minnesota/Wisconsin Playground proposal to City Council. Seconded by Juntunen. 5-1; Polehna voting against.

9) **New Business:**

- No new business

10) **Old Business:**

- Commissioner Miller asked about the tennis court repairs. This project is going to be completed, but there is some contract language that needs to be worked out before the repairs are started.
- There was a pre-construction meeting for the 46/47 trail and mobilization of the contractor is expected next week. We are looking at an August-September completion timeframe.

MOTION to adjourn.

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

Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Kristin Behrens*