

City of Hastings
Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers
April 9, 2013 – 6:00 PM UNAPPROVED

- 1) **Roll Call at 6 pm:** Commissioners Dunkirk, Hedin, Polehna, Kimmen, Schossow, Juntunen, Hawkins and Smith, Interim City Administrator Mesko Lee, PRC Secretary Behrens
- 2) **December Minutes:** Motion to approve December minutes as presented by Smith. Seconded by Schossow. Passed unanimously.
- 3) **Setting Agenda:** Polehna requested to add “Dirt Bike Park” to New Business. Dunkirk asked for information on park plantings.
- 4) **Departmental Updates:** Department updates were reviewed with the commissioners. The new Parks & Recreation Director, Chris Jenkins, will be starting on April 25th. Spring registration is going well, with the majority of people utilizing our online system. Plantings in the parks are maintained and organized by our Maintenance Supervisor, Cory Likes. Anyone interested in volunteering to help in this area should contact the Parks & Recreation Department.
- 5) **Park Dedication:** Community Development Director John Hinzman presented a proposal to dedicate land as part of the Glendale Heights 5th Addition (1 – 75 unit apartment building). The proposal is to dedicate 0.9 acres of the development as park land and was based upon the City’s land dedication requirements. Staff recommended accepting cash in lieu of land because the Comprehensive Plan doesn’t identify a park/open space in this neighborhood, the PRC has accepted cash in the previous four Glendale Heights additions, and the land dedication does not meet the minimum 3-acre size standard for neighborhood parks. The cash dedication at the current development size would be approximately \$82,500 and could increase if the developer chooses to add more units to the addition.
An extensive discussion ensued amongst the PRC regarding the need for a park area in this neighborhood for families versus the fact that the land dedication does not meet the city requirements.
MOTION: Commissioner Smith motioned to accept the staff recommendation to take cash in lieu of land for the Glendale Heights 5th Addition. Seconded by Schossow. Passed 4-3 with Dunkirk, Polehna, and Schossow voting against.
- 6) **Infrastructure Projects Impacting Parks:** City Engineer Nick Egger presented to the PRC the various construction projects that will be occurring this summer that will affect some of our parks. Projects include 18th Street East, 10th Street East & Progress Drive, Conzemius Park Ravine Rehabilitation & Drainage Improvements, CP Adams Parking Lot, and Veterans Home Sewer Rehabilitation. CP Adams Park will be closing to the public July 8th and will be closed until the end of the season. Dunkirk expressed some concerns about the environmental impacts of the erosion control material chosen for the ravine rehabilitation. Smith commented that the project will help to slow down runoff to the Vermillion River and will also give the ground more absorption capability. He feels the project is a very positive one, with the plastic erosion control material being expedient and eventually, inert.
- 7) **Field Usage/Scheduling Update:** Parks staff worked with the local organizations who use our fields and worked out the schedule for the season. All organizations who submitted their field requests have been emailed their approved field schedules for the season. There were some compromises made, but the majority of the requests were accommodated.
- 8) **Maintenance Survey Update:** The PRC was given a survey late in 2012 regarding our maintenance practices and priorities. Three commissioners returned the survey to us and our maintenance staff also filled it out. With Barry’s departure, this project was put on hold. Any commissioners who would still like to fill out the survey are encouraged to send them to Kristin. She will hold them in a file for the new Director.
- 9) **New Business:**
 - Dirt Bike Park: this topic will be tabled until the May meeting.
- 10) **Old Business:**
 - No old business

MOTION to adjourn.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 14, 2013; 6:00 PM; City Hall Council Chambers

Adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Kristin Behrens