

City of Hastings
Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes
City Hall Council Chambers
May 14, 2013 – 6:00 PM UNAPPROVED

- 1) **Roll Call at 6 pm:** Commissioners Dunkirk, Hedin, Polehna, Schossow, Juntunen, Hawkins and Smith, Director Jenkins, PRC Secretary Behrens
Absent: Youth Commissioner Kimmen
- 2) **April Minutes:** Motion to approve April minutes with minor wording changes to the 1st paragraph under “Park Dedication” by Smith. Seconded by Polehna. Passed unanimously.
- 3) **Open Mike:**
 - Dunkirk expressed disappointment in the vote at the April meeting regarding the park dedication for the Glendale Heights 5th Addition. Smith commented that he discussed the topic with other members of the community with experience in natural resources, and the main issue with having a park of such small size is that it is quite expensive to maintain versus a larger park area. It was mentioned that the Sand Coulee SNA is nearby and that there may be a possibility to use a larger area for a park in the future. Park dedication money is allocated to a fund for the ward it is received in.
 - Polehna asked about the possibility of creating a BMX-type bike park in Hastings. He knows of many instances where kids are creating their own dirt jumps around town. It was mentioned that a dog park would be nice to have as well. Jenkins stated that while these are all good ideas, amenities are added based on what is found in the Parks Comprehensive Plan. That plan was developed based on community input gathered through surveys, public meetings, etc. If the residents of Hastings want these amenities, staff will explore the possibility of adding them to the community. Smith mentioned that in the community survey that was done, there was tremendous satisfaction with our parks system, but there was a lack of desire to spend money on them. Jenkins stated that he would do some research and see how well bike parks are utilized in other cities.
- 4) **Setting Agenda:** No additions to agenda.
- 5) **Departmental Updates:** Chris Jenkins, the new Parks & Recreation Director, introduced himself to the PRC. Department updates were reviewed with the commissioners. Darbie Johnson’s last day will be Friday, May 17th. The HFAC will open as scheduled with more information to come. Sliv McGree also retired, so Jenkins will be looking at the department structure and determining how best to move forward.
- 6) **Veterans Park Baseball Field Improvement Committee:** The committee is interested in constructing an elevated press box behind the bleachers at the Vets Park baseball field. They do have some money that has been donated that the City is holding for them. They are currently working on more detailed plans focusing on longevity, safety, and maintenance. The committee is also looking to replace the scoreboard. The cost of a new one is a little more than \$24,000 and the committee is looking to get 3 “Lifetime of Scoreboard” donations of \$10,000 each which would display the business approved advertising on the scoreboard. The current scoreboard is quite old and is wearing out. The bulbs are also very expensive and time consuming to replace. The committee is looking for approval from City Council to fundraise for this project.
MOTION: Commissioner Smith motioned to recommend that City Council allows the Veterans Park Baseball Committee to fundraise for a new scoreboard at the baseball field. Seconded by Hedin. Passed unanimously.
- 7) **New Business:**
 - No new business
- 8) **Old Business:**
 - No old business

MOTION to adjourn.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 11, 2013; 6:00 PM; City Hall Council Chambers

Adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Kristin Behrens