

**City of Hastings**  
**Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes**  
**City Hall Council Chambers**  
**August 13, 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
- 2) **May Minutes:** Motion to approve May minutes as presented by Smith. Seconded by Hawkins. Passed unanimously.
- 3) **Open Mike:**
  - Polehna asked if there were any updates about the possibility of creating a BMX-type bike park in Hastings. Jenkins stated that it is on his list to research, but he hasn't had time as of yet. Polehna also asked about the large sand pile in the Lake Rebecca Park area. These are dredging spoils from the river. Jenkins is considering the possibility of using them in some way, possibly to raise the level of the park. Polehna asked if there are any pollutants in the spoils that would cause an issue in the park. The Corps does classify the spoils as hazardous waste, but in certain situations they can be used safely. There is a thorough permitting process that would be followed with the Corps of Engineers if the City wanted to try and use the spoils in some way.
  - Jenkins asked the PRC about conducting some of our meetings as a work session instead of the more formal meetings at City Hall. It was felt that these work sessions could be more productive where commissioners would feel more comfortable voicing new ideas, issues, etc. A possibility would be to have formal quarterly meetings at City Hall with work group type meetings in the months between. Or we could hold formal meetings when there is an action item on the agenda and have work group meetings when there is not. The commissioners expressed great interest in this idea and Jenkins will explore the options with City Administration and see what our options are in conjunction with city ordinance requirements.
  - Dunkirk asked Jenkins about his philosophy towards parks – people vs nature? Jenkins explained that he believes there is value in all types of park facilities, whether it is an athletic complex or a nature trail. Every park is not a ball field. His job is to listen to what the community wants and see what can be implemented.
  - Polehna asked if the Parks & Recreation Committee of Council should be more involved in the PRC meetings. Jenkins explained that for certain agenda topics they are more involved, at times possibly being present at the meeting. However, they do receive updates from staff regarding the PRC meetings and recommendations. The Committee of Council is a work group before the topic goes to the full City Council.
- 4) **Setting Agenda:** No additions to agenda.
- 5) **Departmental Updates:** Jeff Elliott has been promoted to be the new Arena Manager effective August 1, 2013. There are staffing changes proposed in the budget to assist Jeff at the Arena. The west rink began flooding yesterday and there has been a budget request made to remedy the dehumidification issue.

The Parks maintenance staff is finally getting caught up with their project list. The sign beds have been cleaned out and we will be doing some more streamlined landscaping in these areas. Staff is analyzing the maintenance plan and determining the best way to move forward. There are some areas that need significant repairs, for example, many of the basketball courts in our system. Dunkirk asked if the landscaping of the park is evaluated at the same time that repairs are being done to park structures. Staff tries to look at the entire facility and especially concentrates on safety issues.

Hedin asked about getting some benches at Crestview Park. She thought they were in the original plan when the playground was installed. Staff will look into this and see what can be done.

The last day the HFAC is open for the season is Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Theresa has done a great job managing everything this year. There have been 42 saves to date where lifeguards have rescued people from the water. They are doing an excellent job. Winterizing will start once the pool is closed.

There is a potential land donation to the city off 10<sup>th</sup> Street just north of the Public Works facility. It is about a 13-14 acre parcel of land and it is a potential site for a dog park. No matter what ends up being done with the land, the city is interested in acquiring it. Schossow voiced her support for a dog park in Hastings, stating that many drive their dogs to Rosemount now. Jenkins agreed that a dog park would be good to have, but is this the best spot for one or is another area better?

Jenkins also shared some budget requests made for 2014: new mower, dehumidification unit at the Arena, new pool heaters, new roof at the HFAC, and staffing changes.
- 6) **Veterans Park Press Box:** The Veterans Park Improvement Committee would like to build a press box at the Vets Baseball Field. They have the funding available from some past donations and contractors have also agreed to donate their time to the project. The conceptual designs have been donated by a local architect. Structural engineering would be done to make sure everything is safe and sound. The Committee is asking for the PRC's support to bring this project forward to the City Council. Schossow asked if there is any cost to the City. The electricity is already there and would just need to be

pulled from one box to another. The permits would be issued by the City anyway, so there isn't a cost issue there. This project would benefit the entire Hastings baseball community. Polehna asked where the press box would be located. It would be behind home plate built into the existing grandstand area. There is a drawing in the packet to illustrate this.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Schossow motioned to support the Veterans Park Improvement Committee's press box project at Veterans Park. Seconded by Schossow. Passed unanimously.

7) **New Business:**

- No new business

8) **Old Business:**

- No old business

MOTION to adjourn.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 8, 2013; 6:00 PM; City Hall Council Chambers**

Adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Kristin Behrens*