

The February 6, 2012 Park and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 6031 Main Street, Rockford, MN.

### **Roll Call**

The following members were present: Rentz, Hudlow, Lucarelli and Seymour. Absent: Edeburn. Also in attendance were: Council Liaison Hafften, Parks Lead Desens, and Deputy Clerk Etzel.

### **Approve November 7, 2011 Minutes**

**MOTION** was made by Hudlow, and seconded by Seymour to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2011 regular meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR- RENTZ, HUDLOW, LUCARELLI AND SEYMOUR.**

### **MN Volleyball Schedule for 2012**

The Commission reviewed the 2012 volleyball schedule. Darcy stated the schedule is similar to last years. He also noted the organization was very happy with the location and the quality of the sand.

### **Staff Report**

The staff report included: Park & Recreation meetings will start in February so there is no conflict with Holidays on the first Monday starting at 6:00 pm, City Council approved the purchase of all the Parkwood Park equipment instead of in phases for a cost savings and will be installed sometime this summer, City Council approved a donation of \$6,700 to the Rockford School District as part of a matching grant to improve the athletic fields, memorial garden in Freedom Park is being relocated, and the next meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2012. Some commission members may not be able to attend the next meeting since it is scheduled over spring break - staff will consider changing if a quorum is unavailable.

### **Financial Report**

The commission reviewed their current fund balance of \$92,958.04. Staff informed the commission that year end journal entries have not been completed and the balance may change slightly. After the Parkwood Park purchases there will be an estimated \$60,000 remaining in the budget.

### **Update Field of Dreams**

Commissioner Hudlow gave an update. The group would like to move the field to the east. They have a surveyor coming in April, so they need to meet with staff to have a benchmark before the surveyor comes to do the measurements. The surveyor is doing the work at no charge.

Commissioner Hudlow stated the group has raised \$20,000 through fundraising, corporate sponsors and the Hanover Athletic Association donated \$10,000. The field will be called "Bankwest Lampert Field". Bankwest and Lampert have the name title for five years. Hopefully \$20,000 will be raised through the Chevy Campaign. They have an application in for the Twins Grant for up to \$10,000. The group also plans to sell blocks for the dug out and back stop to raise an additional \$5,000.

There was discussion regarding installing a flagpole at center field, but lighting is a concern and would need to be investigated. All flags kept out overnight need to be illuminated. RAAA has an electrician

who is willing to donate his time for this project. The scoreboard will be placed in right field and it would be nice to install the electric for the flag at the same time if the lighting is not a problem.

The plan is to have the infield sod installed by the fall of 2012 and the field ready for games starting in April or May of 2013.

The group discussed the 3-4" of top soil that will need to be removed for the ag lime and where it could be stock piled. It was suggested to ask surrounding property owners. Staff will contact the Wagner's to the west regarding storing the dirt.

Jimmy's Pizza will donate 20% of the sales to the field of dreams every second Tuesday of the month for an unlimited time.

### **R.A.C.E. Grants Update**

The RACE group submitted a grant application to Hennepin County Youth Sports was a joint effort between: the City of Rockford, City of Greenfield, City of Corcoran and the Rockford School District to finance several projects including a softball complex in Greenfield was rejected. The School District applied for a Twins grant to improve their athletic fields and was notified that the application was approved and award the school \$30,000 requiring matching funds.

### **Parkwood Park Update**

Desens discussed the potential trail options for the Parkwood Park area and how they connect. The trails will be 8' wide bituminous throughout the park. Desens suggested it was time to go out for bids for a section of trails.

**MOTION** was made by Hudlow, seconded by Lucarelli to get quotes for the Parkwood Park trails option A, option B and option C and submit the quotes to the commission at their next meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR- RENTZ, HUDLOW, LUCARELLI AND SEYMOUR.**

Desens is planning on placing the sandbox outside of the playground area to avoid the sand and woodchips from mixing. The sandbox will remain in the playground area.

**MOTION** was made by Lucarelli, seconded by Hudlow to recommend council approve the installation of the water connection for the irrigation and electrical service to Parkwood Park to be financed by the Park Dedication funds.

**MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR- RENTZ, HUDLOW, LUCARELLI AND SEYMOUR.**

**MOTION** was made by Hudlow, seconded by Lucarelli to approve the ground preparation for Parkwood Park.

**MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR- RENTZ, HUDLOW, LUCARELLI AND SEYMOUR.**

**Goals**

The commission discussed a location for an ice skating rink (80 x 200 for a full sized rink). Areas around town were discussed, but no one site was a good fit. The current location off of Ash Street will not be available since the District will be using the land for a garden this year. At this time there is not a high demand for a rink. The commission will discuss at a future meeting.

Benches for Mutterer & Kettenacker Park, lights at the basketball court in Riverside Park and irrigating the parks was also discussed.

**Information**

Commissioner Lucarelli had information regarding two benefits for Claus Robinson, a six year old resident from Rockford. Date for Claus' benefits will be February 18<sup>th</sup> and April 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Adjourn**

**MOTION** was made by Hudlow, seconded by Seymour to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR- RENTZ, HUDLOW, LUCARELLI AND SEYMOUR.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Audra Etzel, Deputy Clerk