

The September 6, 2011 Park and Recreation meeting was called to order by Chair Rentz at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken. The following members were present: Hudlow, Edeburn, Lucarelli, Seymour and Rentz. Absent: None. Also in attendance were: Parks Employee Desens and Staff Marlys Elsen. Council Liaison, Hafften arrived at 6:11 p.m.

Approve Minutes August 1, 2011

Motion was made by Edeburn, seconded by Hudlow to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2011 meeting.

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

Rockford Athletic Association

Steve Yakesh from the Rockford Athletic Association (RAAA) was present and discussed their proposed plans in regards to the development of a little League ball field. Hudlow is a member of RAAA and he spoke at the neighborhood meeting for the Parkwood Park. RAAA has secured a fundraising event through Chevrolet and are in conversations with the Twins Community fund for a matching dollar donation. Also, they have been trying to obtain donations from large companies for this project. The group intends to apply for a TWINS grant for field development, which is a matching grant that provides funding for little league fields up to \$20,000. He also mentioned Individual/Family donation opportunities –individual or family names etched into individual dugout concrete blocks.

Mr. Yakesh presented proposed line item costs including: back stop, fencing, dugout slab, dugout walls & doors, irrigation system, black dirt Hydro-seeding, Pitching Mound/home plate and miscellaneous items for a total of approximately \$28,790.00. The labor will be provided by local volunteers. The grading/drainage of the field and water and electrical access were in question. Parks employee Desens stated that the City would be responsible for the water and electrical utilities. Yakesh also presented information on Fields for Kids Ball Field Renovation Grants. The program guidelines were program summary, administration, matching grant size and eligibility.

The City obligations to this project would be on going maintenance of the field, water for irrigation system and waiving all permit costs.

Mr. Yakesh said this will be a Baseball Park rather than just a field. When not used by RAAA anyone can utilize the field. He figures the bulk of the games would be from April 15th thru July 15th.

Council Member Hafften had a question on insurance for this field and staff member Elsen said that the city would own the park and therefore would be covered under the cities policy that covers all our parks.

MOTION was made by Rentz, seconded by Seymour to bring to council the proposal for the Youth Baseball Field and have it put on the next agenda.

MOTION CARRIED –VOTING IN FAVOR: EDEBURN, HUDLOW, LUCARELLI, SEYMOUR AND RENTZ

Review Parkwood Park Design

The two design options were presented to the Commission.

Lucarelli and Edeburn attended the open house with the residents and wanted to thank all the residents for their suggestions and input.

There were a few residents in the audience and Rentz asked if they had any questions or concerns. A resident asked if this ball field would just be for boys ball games. Mr. Yakesh said it would not be regulated for girls softball leagues. Another resident said this field will be in their backyard and were concerned about the lighting on the field. Yakesh said most of the games would be done by 8:30 –9:00 p.m. at the latest. Another concern was traffic. Lucarelli also had some concerns about the traffic and the parking. Right now 20 parking spaces are planned for the park.

Desens submitted approximate costs on the trails around the park. The Commission decided to table the decision on selecting a plan at this time and directed Desens to figure out the budget for next year first and bring back the approximate total cost of this project including costs for benches, trails, playground equipment, lighting, garbage cans etc.

MOTION was made by Rentz, seconded by Seymour to table selecting a design option until the next meeting.

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

Staff Report

The Commission reviewed the Staff Report which included the following: utilizing the school property for a skating ring, the new Freedom Park, getting the Parkwood park land reseeded prior to the cutoff date, extending water service to the Parkwood Park and schedule the next regular meeting for November 7th at 6 p.m.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Rentz, seconded by Edeburn.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Submitted by:

Marlys Elsen

Staff