

**CITY OF MOORHEAD
PARK ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 15, 2008
Hjemkomst Center**

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Moorhead Park Advisory Board was held at the Hjemkomst Center, Moorhead, Minnesota, on the 15th day of April 2008.

Members Present: Randy Bach, Mary Charlton, Heidi Durand, Lila Hazemann, Greg Lemke, Ron Schneider, Diane Wray Williams

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Holly Heitkamp, Recreation Division Manager; Karen Stremick, Office Specialist

Visitors Present: Mark Hintermeyer, City Council Member; Cindy Gray, SRF Consulting Group; Wade Kline, FM Metro Council of Governments (Metro COG)

2. RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/INTRODUCTIONS

None

3. MINUTES – March 5, 2008

Bach moved to approve the March 5, 2008 minutes, seconded by Lemke. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

The PAB received a petition which will be considered as a citizen to be heard even though the sponsors of the petition are not present. The petition requested that disc golf to be included in the Master Plan for MB Johnson Park. There were 160 signatures on the petition and 25% were Moorhead residents. The cost of a disc golf course is approximately \$10,000, there is no known fundraising for the course by the petition sponsors; however, in kind donations have been offered. The PAB felt that the focus of MB Johnson Park is that of a natural park and that a more active downtown park would be a better fit for this type of recreation. All agreed that additional disc golf would be well received.

5. AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None

6. REPORTS

a. Draft Plans for MB Johnson Park

Cindy Gray, from SRF Consulting presented the PAB with three concept plans for MB Johnson Park based on public and PAB input. All three concepts focused on MB Johnson maintaining a natural theme. The PAB found positives in each of

the concepts, but felt Concept 1 was the best option with a single entrance/exit. Other suggestions made by the PAB were:

- Move the proposed amenities in closer proximity to each other to allow for parental supervision for children participating in a number of different activities.
- Add a sliding hill
- Possibly incorporate our existing log cabin into the proposed structure.
- Remove the primitive camping due to concerns that it might encourage unauthorized overnight campers.
- Widen driveway in the event a logging truck or semi needs entrance, add gate inset to avoid traffic backup.
- Bench at river/ creek overlook.
- Trails identify type of material used, width of trails and height from the nuisance floods. (Greenway study recommends 24 year flood levels).

b. Metro COG on Trail Connections

Wade Kline presented the PAB with the progress being made on the Metro COG Red River Greenway Study. The Greenway Study covers the area next to the Red River in North Dakota from 124th Avenue South to 110th Avenue North and in Minnesota from 120th Avenue South to 110th Avenue North. The Greenway system hopes to have four main uses and or functions:

1. Transportation corridor for pedestrians and bicyclists
2. Year round opportunities to include cross country skiing and snow shoeing
3. Educational opportunities showcasing the Red River
4. Provide flood protection and setbacks

Currently, the Study identifies five possible bridge locations on the Red River they are: MB Johnson Park, Riverside Cemetery, River Oaks Park and 50th Avenue South in Moorhead and Iwen Park in Fargo.

The Metro COG hopes to have a public meeting to present their draft plan the third week in May and a completed plan in June.

7. ACTION REQUESTED

a. Request from Moorhead Youth Hockey for Expansion

The PAB received a written request from the Moorhead Youth Hockey Association (MYHA) to utilize the former Skate Park, located adjacent to their arena for three additional youth outdoor ice rinks. Currently, the area is under contract with the Midwest Stickball League from May to September. It was felt that both activities should be able to utilize the area. MYHA is proposing to cover the area in sand and then flood the rinks using the outdoor air temperature to freeze. MYHA would remove the sand in the spring. The City would provide snow removal on the rinks. It was unknown if the rinks would be available to the public. PAB requested this be determined prior to granting the request.

Lemke motioned to table the request from MYHA for expansion until the May meeting, seconded by Hazemann. All votes were in favor; the motion passed.

b. Matson Field, Naming Rights and Parking

There was a request to allow the "Field of Dreams" Committee the naming rights to sell as a fundraising effort towards the renovations at Matson Field. Questions were raised concerning the amounts associated with the sponsorships and what the plaques may look like. The Field of Dreams Committee will be attending the May meeting to update the PAB on some of these details and also on their fundraising progress towards Phase II.

Charlton motioned to table the discussion on Matson Field naming rights and parking until the May meeting, seconded by Bach. All votes were in favor; the motion passed.

c. Request from VFW to Waive User Fees at Matson

Staff received a request from the VFW Gold's Baseball to waive their contract fee of \$2,000. They cited the loss of revenues due to the smoking ban as their hardship. PAB felt that if the fee was waived it could set a precedent for future contracts/organizations. The PAB felt that the fee requested by the City for field rental was reasonable to offset the expenses associated with the field maintenance.

Lemke motioned to deny the request of the VFW to waive their contract fee for field rental, seconded by Durand. All votes were in favor; the motion passed.

8. UPDATES

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Schneider adjourned the meeting

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Stremick
Office Specialist
Moorhead Parks and Recreation