



Board of Park Commissioners

Doug Skates - President

Alderman Al Kupsik
Rick Steinberg
John Swanson

Lynn Hassler
Peggy Schneider
Mayor Jim Connors

Barb Hartigan
Dave Quickel

Director of Public Works Daniel S. Winkler, P.E., Secretary
Street Superintendent Ron Carstensen

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MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2012

Call to Order:

The Board of Park Commissioners meeting was called to order by President Skates at 6:00 PM. DPW Dan Winkler read the roll.

Roll Call:

President Doug Skates , Lynn Hassler , Barb Hartigan ,
Rick Steinberg , Peggy Schneider , Dave Quickel , John Swanson ,
Ald. Al Kupsik , Mayor Jim Connors Late . (8 then 9_ total).

Staff & Aldermen Present:

DPW Daniel Winkler , Street Superintendent Ron Carstensen , Ald. Bill Mott ,
Administrator Dennis Jordan .

Public Present:

Mr. Ed Yeager, Ms. Gail Gyax, Mr. Gary Millette.

Approve the Minutes of the Prior Meeting:

It was moved by Commissioner Swanson to approve the minutes of the November meeting and seconded by Commissioner Hartigan. The motion passed 8-0.

Public Input:

Gary Millette spoke in favor of a dog park at the old Hillmoor site.

Park Permits/Park Donations

President Skates said there were no permits for approval.

Park Assignments/Repair Update:

Commissioner Steinberg noted that the gate at Cobb Park was locked for the season. Commissioner Swanson complimented staff for the parking islands at Veterans Park and for the great job done cleaning up Four Seasons.

New Business:

Railroad Park Dedication-Discussion (This item was taken out of order on a motion by Skates and second by Ald. Kupsik, passing 9-0)

Mr. Yeager handed out his presentation from the Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, a spliced together map showing City and Utility Commission owned property under discussion, and a plan sheet of proposed Geneva Street connector. He quoted City Ordinance regarding dedication of the shared land for a park. He said that dedicating the land for a park will promote tourism and draw thousands of railroad enthusiasts to the City.

Commissioner Quickel asked what the agenda was here?

Mr. Yeager then said it was time for full disclosure and that a major reason for him wanting the City and Utility owned lands dedicated as a park, was to take the lands out of the at risk category for a streetscape modification referred to as the Geneva Street connector. He showed the Commission a copy of the Highway 50 study plan cover and shared a sketch of the proposed street connector. It was also stated the bridge was not deteriorating or within 1200' of a drinking water well.

Ald. Kupsik said the Utility Commission has worked with us and allowed historic signage to be installed at the bridge and on Sage Street, and Public Works has done clean-up of the area and will do more in the vicinity of the woods under discussion. He also said the Utility Commission has been otherwise done a commendable job with its property and been very cooperative, and the area in his opinion does not need to become a park.

Commissioner Steinberg provided a letter proposing to divide the land and have the City dedicate the land from the north to include the bridge as a park. And that he thought a train engine would create an attraction for the City.

Administrator Jordan said the recent Edwards Boulevard improvement was criticized by some members of the community and is a heavily traveled improvement. And Mr. Yeager objective is an attempt to take the decision of a possible road connection out of the hands of some future Council if a connection is needed to someday relieve traffic congestion.

President Skates said the park land dedication request has been discussed over the past several years, that the Utility Commission did a great job of cleaning up the area, that the past interest has been to not name the disputed lands as a park, and that all the discussion over the park dedication or not may have created a missed opportunity to expand railroad awareness. He said he would not support a park dedication.

It was moved by Ald. Kupsik and seconded by Commissioner Swanson to leave the land as is with the City continuing to maintain the area in its historical condition. It was the consensus of the group that this item has been discussed repeatedly and the is the final decision on the matter. The motion to leave the property as-is passed 8-1 with Commissioner Steinberg voting nay.

Old Business:

Gail Gygax Memorial-Discussion (It was moved by President Skates and seconded by Mayor Connors to take this item out of order. The motion passed 9-0).

Ms. Gygax provided an update on the status of her fundraising efforts. She indicated that by 2014 they should be ready to break ground. The question she had was who would have to approve the sale of sidewalk bricks. The Commission indicated that the decision was ultimately the Council's but that they needed to see the rendering with the bricks to make a recommendation of their own to Council.

Discussion/Recommendation on Use of City Owned Portion of Hillmoor

President Skates stated he had done research on the proposed uses of frisbie golf and contacted the State representative of the Professional Disc Golf Association for advice. The representative can be at the next meeting to discussion a possible 18 or 27 hole layout. President Skates indicated that the person can lay out a course for \$1,500 to \$2,000 and can also lay out the dog park and trail system to complement it. Apparently an 18-hole frisbie golf course would only cost \$20,000 to \$25,000 to build. Ald. Kupsike asked about funding. Winkler and Jordan indicated the source is probably park funds but that TIF #4 could perhaps help cover the trail.

Veterans Park Scoreboard Discussion

Administrator Jordan said the Jaycees have committed to purchase the scoreboard at Molitor Field. DPW Winkler said the scoreboards are due to be installed in two weeks.

Set Next Meeting Date:

After some discussion, it was decided to hold the next meeting at its regular time on January 2, 2013 at 6:00 PM. The frisbie golf representative would hopefully be there.

Adjourn:

It was moved by Ald. Kupsike and seconded by Quickel to adjourn. The motion passed 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel S. Winkler

Daniel S. Winkler, P.E.
Park Commission Secretary
& Director of Public Works & Utilities
12/06/12

(If anyone finds any inaccuracies, errors or needs to adjust the minutes please call or email me prior to the next meeting.)