



Johnston Park Advisory Board
February 13th, 2008
Crown Point Community Center
6300 Pioneer Parkway
515-251-3707

MINUTES

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:08pm.
2. Roll Call: Present: Paulsen, Berry, Gagne, Cook, Hibbs,
3. Motion made by Ken Paulsen to approve agenda. Seconded by Bob Gagne.
Agenda approved.
4. Introduction of Council Representative: Ron Ward introduced Jim Hibbs as the new Council Representative for the Park Board.
5. Public Comments: Virginia Soelberg let the Board know the Grand Opening Ceremony for the Trestle to Trestle Trail will be June 6th, 2008.
6. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Motion made by Ken Paulsen to approve November 20, 2007 minutes. Seconded by Bob Gagne. Minutes approved.

7. Non-Consent Agenda, discussion of Park Board issues:

A. Review Crown Point Community Center Space Use Analysis Report- Doug Sires, the architect who was hired to conduct this study, explained the space use analysis findings to the Board. Doug was hired to determine the best use of the Community Center. To start the process he gathered input from staff and regular user groups of the facility. He explained the five different scenarios within the report and the cost estimates involved in each one.

The report suggests the best use of the building to be a senior center during the weekdays and a community building on evenings and weekends. Any renovations or new building cost would have to be funded by a General Obligation Bond.

After some discussion by the Park Board, Ken Paulsen made a motion that Doug Sires present this final report on the Space Use Analysis for Crown Point to City Council. And to recommend the third Scenario as the one the Park Advisory Board is in favor of. Motion seconded by Bob Gagne. Motion passed.

B. Notes from meeting with Mayor and Mayor Elect Nov. 27, 2007-Ron Ward included this in everyone's packet so they'd be aware of issues that were discussed. A Committee has already been formed and has met once to discuss what projects to include in a Park Bond Referendum.

Trish Berry suggested we wait until next month's meeting to discuss moving the Park Board meetings to the second Tuesday of each month. Bob Gagne thought it would be a good idea to wait until the next fiscal year to start this. Ron will include this item on the agenda for the March meeting for discussion.

C. Fundraiser Request, Central Iowa Chapter of the P.Buckley Moss Foundation- Bob Gagne made a motion to approve this fund-raiser request. Seconded by Ken Paulsen. Motion passed.

8. Staff Reports:

A. Parks Superintendent:

1. Crown Point Pool Evaluation-Ron let the Board know that Waters Edge Aquatic Design has been hired to do an evaluation on the pool for a lump sum cost of \$3500.00. Ron feels it's worth the money to have the evaluation done and find out what kind of condition the pool is really in. Their final report will address the following points:
 - a. What is the overall physical condition?
 - b. What improvements are required?
 - c. Is the existing site suitable for continued pool use?
 - d. Can a renovation project be justified?
 - e. What are the costs?

Troy Cook asked if the pool would be opened this spring and summer? Ron said until a decision is made about the pool and the evaluation completed, it will remain closed for this season.

2. Terra Lake Park Update-Snyder & Associates presented Terra Lake Park Grading Plan, Option 3 to Council on February 4, 2008. This was the direction given to them at the November 5, 2007 meeting by Council. Angela Butler also spoke to the Council about the project and made the points that: Option 1 was the plan recommended by the Park Board after much public input; that spending more money to increase the water feature to 12 acres takes future funds from other projects; and that increasing the water features to 12 acres brings the lake close to the neighborhood park area with play equipment. After discussion, Council gave staff the direction to move forward with the Option 1 Grading Plan, which was the original Option recommended by the Park Board. This project may be funded by a Park Bond.
3. Crown Point & Simpson Barn 2007 Usage Report-Ron discussed the usage reports with the Board. The Simpson Barn more than doubled in use from 233 hours in 2006 to 562 hours in 2007.
4. 2007 Annual Report-This report is to show everyone all the work the Parks Department and Parks Crew has accomplished for the year.

5. EAB presentation to Council on Feb. 19, 2008-Robin Pruisner will give an updated presentation on the Emerald Ash Borer to Council at their February 19th, 2008 meeting.
6. 2008/2009 Budget Update-Ron discussed the Budget and said Council has approved it. Council also asked that staff look at Decision Packages again to help determine and prioritize these. It was decided the Parks & Recreation Director Position will be effective July 1, 2008. If Ron would fill this position, the Parks Superintendent position wouldn't be filled until January 1, 2009 to stay within the budget. Ron also shared new equipment the Parks Department will purchase to make work and mowing more efficient. A Curb-It Grant was requested for \$30,000 and a Hydro-seeder will be purchased with this money.
7. CIP Purchases-Ron just ordered 7 tables for Adventure Ridge Park as well as 6 benches. The benches will have the Character Counts wording displayed within the back of the bench. A bike rack and grill have also been Purchased. Ideas for a picnic shelter for this park are also being worked on.
8. Park Crew-Here are a few things the Parks Crew has been busy working on:
 - a. Completed plans for a fishing pier at Pointe Vista.
 - b. Installed new locks on some of the doors of our buildings.
 - c. Refinished the hardwood floor at Crown Point and the floor in the lower level of the Barn.
 - d. Installed all the new remaining signs in the Parks.
 - e. Inventoried all Parks and public land and listed locations of Ash Trees.
9. Safe Route to School Grant-We applied for this grant, but we didn't get it again this year. Out of 68 requests that were received, we were ranked number 32 on the list.
9. Next Park Advisory Board Meeting-Ron will send an email to let everyone know when the Board will meet. The regular meeting would be during spring break and several members will not be available.
10. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

