

Johnston Park Advisory Board
March 16th, 2010 7:00 PM
Crown Point Community Center
6300 Pioneer Parkway
515-251-3707



MINUTES

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

2. Roll Call: Butler, Hattel, Smith, Quinlisk

3. Motion for Approval of Agenda-Motion made by Quinlisk to approve. Second by Smith. Motion approved.

4. Public Comments:

5. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Motion to approve February 17th, 2010 minutes. Motion made by Quinlisk to approve, second by Hattel. Motion approved.

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6. Non-Consent Agenda:
 - A. Discuss changes to Ordinances covering activities in and on waters on public lands-Several issues were brought to the Park Advisory Board at the February 17th, 2010 meeting. The Board directed staff to research the issues and bring recommendations back for discussion. Following are the issues and suggested changes to the Ordinances:
 - Fishing in open water on Public Lands-After talking with a fisheries biologist for the DNR, the suggestion was to follow the State of Iowa Fishing Regulations. The suggested wording change to Chapter 49.03.1 would be "Fishing allowed in accordance with the State of Iowa Fishing Regulations."
 - Ice skating versus ice fishing on open water on public land-Chapter 49.03.5 states that "Ice skating is prohibited unless approved by a resolution of the City Council." So, ice skating is already addressed and is only allowed if posted with a green flag. The Code does not address ice fishing as being prohibited. After staff researched the issue of ice policies in surrounding areas, it was determined that when ice is safe for ice fishing it's usually determined by the participant. It's generally assumed by people ice fishing that they do so at their own risk.

The suggestion from staff is the Code remains unchanged and that the Police are informed that the No Skating red flag does not apply to ice fishing.

- Use of City Greenbelt, Open Space Areas and Recreation Trails-Chapter 48.09 states “It is unlawful for any person to enter any lagoon, pond, creek or stream at any time.” Since Beaver Creek is considered public waters of the State of Iowa, it should be exempted from this restriction. Beaver Creek is exempted from the restrictions in Chapter 49, Use of Ponds, Detention Areas and Open Water on Public Land. Staff suggests the wording change for section 48.09 is “with the exception of Beaver Creek, it is unlawful for any person to enter any lagoon, pond, creek or stream at any time.”

The Park Advisory Board agreed that Ron should talk to the City Attorney to see if he agrees with the wording for these Ordinances.

7. Park & Recreation Director Report:

A. 2010/2011 Budget-The Budget was finalized at a special meeting this week. The Council voted to lower the tax rate from \$11.30 to \$11.267.

B. Crown Point Remodeling-Ron met with the Architect from SVPA on this project. They’ve already come up with some great ideas on remodeling Crown Point by making better use of the space which will help save money on this project. Ron and the Architect will meet with the Senior Citizen Advisory Board next week to discuss the plans for the building.

C. Ray Schleihs Park-The name change was approved by Council and signs have been ordered for the Park. After the new shelter is installed, a park dedication ceremony will be planned.

D. JIL & JGSA light proposal update-Ron and Jim Sanders met with both groups after their meeting with the Park Advisory Board. The groups are moving forward with their public meetings with Green Meadows West. A representative from Musco Lighting is also attending the meetings to explain the lights and their functionality.

E. Invasive removal work day April 17th-The Friends of Trails Committee is planning a work day on April 17th to remove invasive Honeysuckle from along the trails.

- F. Parks Crew-The Crew is trimming trees in Green Meadows West. They're also clearing litter out of the park areas to get ready for spring fertilizing of these areas.
- G. Board Terms-Terms expire at the end of June for Angela Butler and Carson Hattel. If you wish to remain on the Park Advisory Board, go to the City Website and fill out a new application.
- H. Trail Clean Up-Johnston Alliance for Character Development is organizing a trail clean up day on May 8th.
- I. Tree Sale-The Tree Board will be selling trees starting April 12th. Residents will be able to pick up their trees from Public Works on Saturday, May 1st.
8. Next Park Advisory Board Meeting:
April 21st, 2010
9. Motion for adjournment made by Hattel, second by Smith. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.