

Johnston Park Advisory Board
June 15, 7:00 PM
Crown Point Community Center
6300 Pioneer Parkway
515-251-3707



MINUTES

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.
2. Roll Call: Berry, Butler, Cook, Paulsen, Quinlisk, Smith
3. Motion for Approval of Agenda-Motion made by Paulsen to approve. Second by Berry. Motion approved.
4. Public Comments: The following residents spoke concerning the planned improvements of a parking lot and basketball court to Pointe Vista Park.

Paul Russ	9333 Enfield Drive
Bob Larkin	9601 Enfield Drive
Chuck Busch	6519 NW 97 th Street
Matt Sokolowski	6613 NW 97 th Street
Gail Russ	9333 Enfield Drive

Two of the residents, a husband and wife, spoke in favor of the improvements. Two other residents voiced concerns about the need for parking, as it will take away some of the open space in the park and it may bring in people from outside the neighborhood. One of these two also had concerns that the basketball court would take away open space as well, and that more kids would use the open space for soccer practice and baseball games than would use a basketball court. The other resident, who has the park behind his home, voiced concerns that the only time a parking lot would be used is when kids are having soccer practice. He also said there were basketball courts available at Beaver Creek Elementary and Horizon Elementary. He also stated he purchased his lot there because of the planned park, and that if the improvements were added, he would live with the additions.

The Park Board members addressed the concerns by explaining the process that was followed in 2004 and 2005 to develop the master plan for the park. It was explained that the master plan was approved by Council in May 2005 and that these improvements are the next steps in the phased development of the park and these improvements have been included in the Parks CIP since

2005/2006. The members also pointed out that all the city parks are for all the city residents, so not everyone can or wants to walk to the park. They also pointed out that a basketball court could provide an activity for teens, a segment of the population that is underserved in terms of recreation facilities.

One of the residents opposed to the improvements asked what the next step was. Ward informed him that a public hearing date would be set at the July 6, 2010 Council meeting for the following Council meeting on July 19, 2010. That public hearing would be to accept the plans. He also wanted to know if Council would be made aware that some residents had concerns about the improvements. Ward told him he would inform the City Administrator and the Council of the discussion.

5. Consent Agenda:

A. Motion to Approve May 18, 2010 minutes with one correction, item 7.H. the second sentence should begin with "Staff" instead of "They" made by Paulsen. Second by Quinlisk. Motion approved.

6. Non-Consent Agenda:

Discuss 2011-2012 thru 2016/2017 Capital Improvement Plan

Ward reviewed the proposed list of projects and the Board agreed with the plan with the following suggestions. Paulsen suggested that a heating system for the Simpson Barn be moved up from Unscheduled Projects and included as soon as possible to increase the usefulness of the facility. Ward informed there may be funds available from 2010/2011 for the Trail from 48th to Beaver Drive due to this trail may be included in a sewer and street project.

Butler suggested that with the 62nd Ave widening project and Pioneer building a new building, the Augustine Trail could be partially funded by either or both of those projects. Ward informed that he has hired Foth to design the trail and Foth is also designing the widening project, so there should be some economy of scale for the trail project. Ward also said that Pioneer was interested in connecting their facilities to the City's trails, so they may be willing to help with the project.

Quinlisk suggested that as 62nd Ave is widened, the increased traffic might make the Pioneer Parkway Trail more of a priority. Ward said that situation could be monitored and the trail project could move from Unscheduled Projects if warranted.

Butler suggested a Dog Park, listed as an Unscheduled Project, is a needed facility in Johnston. She then acknowledged that land would have to be obtained, because the Parks Department does not own any land that is suitable.

7. Park & Recreation Director Report:
 - A. Crown Point Remodeling-Ward informed the Board that SVPA Architects have almost completed the design drawings and the project should be ready to set a public hearing at the July 6, 2010 Council meeting. With the process just starting to proceed through Council, the earliest that construction will begin will be mid to late August. The regular users of the facility will be allowed to continue to use the building until construction begins, but no rentals will be scheduled after June 30th.

 - B. Since the Public Comments portion of the meeting included a discussion of the Pointe Vista Park and Lew Clarkson Park Improvements, Ward did not provide any further update.

 - C. Trail Signage update – Ward reported that the Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department is scheduled to get Council approval of the Central Iowa Trails signage license agreement this month. The Johnston City Council will then have to approve the agreement. In the mean time, signs can be ordered. Des Moines is also going to allow other cities to join them in the bid for construction of the information signs, so a better price should be available.

 - D. Farmer’s Market – Ward reported that the Parks and Recreation Department will be manning an information booth at the Market on July 27th from 3:00 to 7:00. Information on the parks, trails and facilities will be provided.

 - E. Johnston Girls Softball Association field dedication – Paulsen reported that he was planning on attending this event on June 12th, but it was rained out. Butler also was planning to attend.

 - F. Park Staff - The Crew is busy mowing, spraying herbicides for weed control, tree work in the parks, landscaping work in Green Meadows and on the medians, and preparing for Green Days.

8. Next Park Advisory Board Meeting:
July 20, 2010 (at Crown Point)

9. Motion for adjournment made by Berry, second by Smith. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.