



ADVISORY BOARD Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2006

5:30 p.m. - Maple Room

Board members in attendance were Steve Martens (Chair), Mark Mergen, Jacquie McKinney and Bob Wright. Staff members in attendance were Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, Sara Dinkel, Dan Mahanke, Brock Shafer, Jeff Peterson, Lindsay Youle, Brian Anderson, April Bishop and Jackie Zinselmeyer.

Steve Martens called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. Jacquie McKinney made a motion to approve the September 12, 2006 meeting minutes and Mark Mergen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Staff Reports

Because of time constraints it was decided that there would be no staff reports this meeting. They will be deferred to the November meeting.

Chris did ask Lindsay to update the group on Friday's Freaky Fall Fest from 5-9 p.m. Lindsay reported that everything was ready to go and that Mark Mergen, Mary Tearney, and Jacquie McKinney will serve as judges during the costume contest. Lindsay also reported that we have more than 15 groups participating in Trunk or Treat and a variety of food vendors.

II. Time Line for Ironwoods Parks Projects

Chris shared with the group a schedule outlining the timeline for the up coming Ironwoods Park Improvements as prepared by DesignSense. She noted that there were a few changes and that Mark Mitts with DesignSense would be sending an updated schedule. Chris also reported that the RFPs went out last week and that there will be a mandatory prebid meeting contractors must attend. Chris reported that the shortlist will be complete by mid November and interviews shortly after. The goal is to get a recommendation to Council on the December 4th meeting. We may also present a recommendation for DesignSense to manage the next phase of the project at this meeting. Chris told the group she will send out a revised schedule to the Park Board Members when she gets it.

III. Update on Council Action Taken 10/02 RE: Use of Trail for Organized Events

Chris passed around an excerpt from the October 2, 2006 Council meeting noting the following:

Mayor Dunn verified with Councilmember Peppes that his motion included the prohibition of walking events as well as running and cycling events. It was also clarified that the recent

Cancer Walk took place on streets rather than the trail. The motion to uphold the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board's recommendation to disallow use of the pedestrian/bicycle trails for any organized groups of any size was approved with a vote of 5-2 (Nay: Council members Gill and Filla).

Chris then shared with the group that the Council decided to send the issue back to the Park Board so the Board could define more specifically what constitutes an organized event. Chris told the group that there was no resolution but approved the motion for better definition.

Bob Wright asked Chris what was wrong with our recommendation to ban organized groups from holding an event on our trail. Chris said this issue comes about because we issue permits for use of our park facilities.

Bob asked Chris "Why can't you make this decision?" Chris said we may need more criteria to help determine who uses the trail. Chris also added that the Council didn't want to close the trail from citizen use because of an organized event.

Mark added that he thinks this is a safety issue.

Chris said it's hard to monitor the access on and off the trail, due to numerous entry points.

Brian said that he thought we could define a group as kids picking up trash or as large as an organized walk/run. Brian also added that if it is an organized group they are using the whole trail whereas a Cub Scout group earning service hours is only using a part of the trail at one time.

Chris added that her issue lies with permitting an event that might result in someone being injured.

Chris left it with the group that staff would look further into defining more specifically what is an organized event and develop a list of prohibited events and permitted activity.

Jacque asked if other agencies had guidelines concerning their organized events or a better definition of organized events. Chris said yes, these were shared with the group at the last meeting. Kim said that she would post at the NRPA web-site a request for input as to how other agencies handle this issue.

Jacque said we could simply define our trail use be limited to civic groups providing clean-up/repair/maintenance.

Jeff added that we could limit the size of the groups providing these services.

It was determined by the group to table this topic until staff can get back with more information/suggestions as to how to define an organized group and what will be permissible use of our trail system. Chris also asked the Park Board members to provide us additional input via email if they so desired.

IV. Resolution Concerning Concealed Firearms in Park or on Trails

Chris said the Council has passed an ordinance that would not allow for the carrying of concealed weapons in City Parks or on the City's trail system.

V. Miscellaneous

Chris reported that she has assigned Steffan Davenport the task of gathering information on all the community centers within an eight mile radius of the proposed justice center site. Chris also added that Prairie Village is also considering a Community Center, even though they do not have an actual parks and recreation department. Steffan will be gathering information on the types of centers, services provided, fees charged, location, etc.

Chris mentioned that maybe there would be enough room to get in on this site because the justice center design won't be underway until mid 2007. Jacquie McKinney said she thinks it's a great location for a Community Center and asked if they have any plans for the old police station. Chris and Brian said the old police station maybe of use as more green space with possibly a shelter located there.

Steve asked "When is the golf course closing and how long will it shut down?"

Chris said we are closing January 1, 2007 with plans to reopen in 2008. Steve asked if they plan on keeping any of the facilities opened and Chris told him no because we need to use much of the facility and parking area for construction staging, as well as attempting to save monies on expenses during a year with very limited revenues.

Chris also reported that the Orion Management Agreement has been extended for three more years as approved last night. She also reported that the Ironhorse maintenance department would be coming in house effective January 2007.

Jacquie McKinney moved that we adjourn the meeting and Bob Wright seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department