

EAST BETHEL PARK COMMISSION MEETING

December 11, 2013

The East Bethel Parks Commission met on December 11, 2013 at 7:00 P.M at the East Bethel City Hall for their regular monthly meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kenneth Langmade Stacy Voelker Sue Jefferson Denise Lachinski
Bill Zimmerman Tim Hoffman

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Bonnie Harvey

ALSO PRESENT: Nate Ayshford, Public Works Manager
Heidi Moegerle, City Council

Oath of Office I, Bill Zimmermman, do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and the State of Minnesota, and faithfully discharge the duties as a member of the City of East Bethel Park Commission in the County of Anoka and the State of Minnesota, to the best of my ability. So help me God.

Adopt Agenda **Lachinski motioned to adopt the agenda as submitted. Voelker seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.**

Approve – August 14, 2013 Meeting Minutes **Lachinski made a motion to approve the August 14, 2013 minutes. Jefferson seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.**

Approve October 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes Lachinski had three changes for the minutes. On page 5/6, last line should be “Ayshford said soccer and lacrosse. Lachinski said we are” and third paragraph add the sentence “Trail land is owned by Anoka County”.

Hoffman had a change on page 4/6, paragraph one, and looks like sentence four. Not father daughter tournament, it is a father’s day tournament.

Hoffman made a motion to table the October 9, 2013 minutes. Lachinski seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Parks The operations budget is at 82% of the total budget and we should finish under budget.
 Financial We had a few overruns on line items and some other areas have a surplus. The biggest
 Information areas where we had overruns were in fuel and equipment parts. Some of that is shared
 & Parks with the street department. Lachinski said a lot of people think that the budget is only
 Capital Funds parks, but it is also for public works. Ayshford said we use a formula for fuel costs, so we
 Summary keep track of all the different departments, such as fire, roads and parks. The skid steer
 and tractor are used for both parks and roads functions.

Hoffman motioned to approve the Park Financial information. Lachinski seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Great job in keeping it under budget, Hoffman said.

Park and Trail With transfer changes to the Park Capital Fund, the Park Commission and staff will need
 Planning to reevaluate project priorities in both park and trail planning. At the December 6th City
 Council meeting the council approved the final 2014 levy, which included a \$50,000
 transfer from the General Fund to the Park Capital fund. This reflects a \$25,000 reduction
 from 2013 and a \$50,000 reduction from 2012. It has also been recommended to postpone
 all park capital projects scheduled in 2014 to subsequent years.

Staff is currently in the review process for Viking Preserve, a 60 home development being planned for the area just south of the East Bethel water tower. The park dedication fees from this development should generate \$150,000 dedicated to park acquisition and development for the City.

Staff has also been in discussion with the Anoka County Parks Department about their master planning process for the regional trails in East Bethel. A summary of those conversations will be presented at the Park Commission meeting.

Ayshford said it would not be \$150,000. It will be \$35,000.

Anoka County originally had us down for 2 regional trails in East Bethel – one along Viking and one along Lexington. They had mentioned that they were going to put these trails on the master plan. They were going to do it this spring, but it is not on their radar right now. Hoffman said they did the west half and didn't put a trail in. Ayshford said when they do an overlay; they won't put in a trail. It has to be a total reconstruction.

They indicated it is going to be quite a while before they do any reconstruction. They will probably do just an overlay. Lachinski said when we talk about the bike paths, how much money does Washington County get for their trails. Moegerle said that is part of the thought, if we can access what is east of Hwy 35. It would be a huge asset to connect over there. This is probably the jumping off point to make the contacts with Linwood to get the trail going east. Lachinski said what happened with GRE with trails. Moegerle said the trail was an offer that wasn't genuine. GRE is not going along 229th Street. There is no trail coming there. Ayshford said the power line is coming down Sunset, and they have already cleared the trees.

Lachinski asked if it affected the least amount of residents and trees. Hoffman said when they were talking about a trail along Cedar Creek it was only for them to have access to their power lines. They wanted us to maintain it. Lachinski said sort of a lumber trail. Hoffman said it was not a good thing for either Cedar Creek or the City. Moegerle said Cedar Creek is looking at opening up their southern border. When that gets clarified the trails along 229th will hopefully happen. The meeting on the MOU was supposed to happen this fall, and there are ten days left so that will not happen. Lachinski said what happens if the MOU lapses. Moegerle asked if it had an end date. Ayshford said he didn't know. Moegerle said she would check on it. Hoffman said the current MOU doesn't have much left in it. Lachinski said she is just curious, because we maintain the trails for cross-country skiing. Ayshford said they have received complaints about dogs being walked back there and horse back riding. Moegerle said they don't want the interference. Ayshford said the key to these trails is working with Anoka County and keeping it on their radar. They have said they do the trails when the roads are being redone. Lachinski said so we missed the boat on Viking Boulevard. Ayshford said at that time, Viking wasn't part of the regional trails plan.

Hoffman said part of the problem is we don't have a county park in East Bethel that they want to connect to. What we want to do is connect up some of our parks and trail segments. We had talked about connecting John Anderson park to the other parks. Hoffman said there are other funds and he isn't sure if we have access to Legacy funds. Moegerle said the Legacy funds come through Anoka County Master Plan, and they are limited along County right of ways. There are also the wooded/non wooded, snowmobile trails, bike trails, paved or unpaved. There are a lot of players to get involved. Hunters Inn and EJs would be interested. Lachinski said and the school district. Moegerle asked if we have a map of all the trails in East Bethel. Ayshford said the concept plan, and it doesn't include the proposed walking trails in Sand Hill Crane yet. Moegerle asked how could we get that updated. Hire a contractor? Ayshford said we would need someone with GIS. Hoffman said we have little chunks of trail here and there. We don't have a plan to put them together. We need to get started on some of them going to get interest. We have this new development that we want to connect up with Norseland Park. Moegerle asked if a meeting with the County to talk about that connection. Could the updated map be done before the January meeting? Ayshford said probably.

Ayshford said they are talking about doing some more trails to the east to the corner of Hwy 65 and County Road 22. It would take wetland credits to do the trail. They are working with the developer to figure out who would pay for that and who would maintain it. There will be a trail that would loop the whole neighborhood. Lachinski said they are looking at filling that pond in. Ayshford said they have other areas they have to buy wetland credits for within the development. Moegerle said lets go back to getting a map for all trails.

Hoffman motioned to contract with someone with GIS to update the trail mapping by the February meeting, to include existing paved trails and natural surface trails.

Ayshford said we would have to add the trails in Booster Park and John Anderson Park and some trails in other parks to the current map. Lachinski said didn't we put that trail in off of Wild Rice. Ayshford said we have looked at it, and there are two water crossings that we have to address. Moegerle asked if we could get money from the County.

Lachinski seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Moegerle said what about planning for the rest of the year. When do we meet with the other stakeholders, such as snowmobile clubs, atv clubs, etc, and Anoka County? Moegerle said when you meet with the snowmobile and atv trail people, do you want to meet with them at the same times. Hoffman said yes. Moegerle said what about Northway Motor sports and the eating establishments. Lachinski said they already have a trail in front of Northway. Moegerle said what about connecting the trail from the Coon Lake Beach to Hwy 65. They have to ditch ride, which isn't optimal. Voelker said it is ditch riding, which isn't great because you don't know what is in the ditch. Hoffman said the biggest issue is access. Ditches are the easiest because the right of way is already there. Lachinski said they don't want people coming in their farm field. Hoffman said people don't want snowmobiles driving across their driveways either. Moegerle said do the three snowmobile clubs meet on a regular basis together. Could we send them a letter, that we are looking into this and want their feedback? So, they can start thinking through. Hoffman said he would hate to see what happened in St. Francis to East Bethel. Lachinski said she thought it was a safety issue. Hoffman said that is how the ban got in, one guy griping about people driving across the driveway. Lachinski said you are going into a business district. Hoffman said you couldn't get anywhere. Lachinski said you couldn't get to Hwy 47. Hoffman said no at that time you couldn't.

Lachinski said should we meet before we meet with the groups. Hoffman said we need a map before we meet with them. Moegerle said you would have a hearing and then Council would have a public hearing. Lachinski said do we need to contact the horse riding clubs. Yes, we do. Do we need to contact ATV riding clubs? Yes. Zimmermman asked if the groups would want to jump on trails. When we talk about the snowmobile trails will the atv groups want to jump on the trails? Lachinski asked how the groups feel about each other on the trails. Hoffman said they should all be involved and they typically don't ride on the trails during the same season.

Hoffman said he typically trailers his sled or ATVs out of the area. That is not what we want. We don't want the money going out of the area. He typically goes to Two Harbors or Wisconsin to ride.

Moegerle wanted to know about talking to Linwood to create the connection east. Peter Brado from Linwood is very interested in this. Lachinski said what about Oak Grove. Hoffman said we would need to include Oak Grove, St. Francis, etc. Lachinski said what about biking clubs. Ayshford said he is not aware of any in this area. Ayshford said when it comes to the Regional trails would it be helpful to have Anoka County to come to the meeting. Hoffman said we need to flush out what we want first. We need to formulate our own plan/idea on what we would like to see and then add those people in before we come up with a complete plan.

Moegerle asked would it be valuable to have County Public Works plan so you know when they will be doing the work. Ayshford said they don't know the plans yet. We are talking reconstruction. Voelker said they should have a 7-year plan. Ayshford said reconstruction could be 30- 40 years out. And you look at the County roads how long have they been there in that state. They typically add drainage and widen the shoulders during reconstruction. The trails like to piggyback on the County Highway Department plans. He also asked the county if they do any trails not located along a highway. Typically they do not. They like to save money by working with the Highway Department for right-of-way

acquisition.

Ayshford said that with the Met Council study the main thing to look at is they did not include Anoka County in hardly any of their planning. Lachinski said maybe they don't know what we have to offer. Hoffman said if we come up with a good trail plan, maybe we should use the money we have.

Moegerle said what about coming up with some spurs we could do next year. Maybe we should find out what the spurs cost, and then we can maybe get some of them done. Lachinski said maybe once we get the trail map out there, we could figure things out. Hoffman said people ask for trails. Lachinski said residents feel intimidated by the government, and they never felt like anyone was listening. Maybe they don't know what they are asking for. Moegerle said the silence is deafening. Unless they have a burr under their saddle. Hoffman said it doesn't matter what the subject is. Lachinski said that is one of the conversations she had at a City event this past weekend. They didn't realize to get a park started all you have to do is write a letter.

Hoffman asked if Ayshford would like to see anything done. Ayshford said he has all kinds of things that he would like to see done, but we need money. Lachinski said what about the tree planting. Ayshford said we would be starting that next summer. But other things like the baseball field and soccer field will be on hold at this point. We will have to really prioritize on what we want to focus on.

Lachinski said we had talked about bringing in the youth organizations to discuss shared cost. Ayshford said with lacrosse there isn't a group in East Bethel that runs lacrosse. Lachinski said Andover has a growing lacrosse organization. Hoffman said that is planned for Bonde Park, and they will need to have an irrigation system to deal with the sandburs.

Moegerle said she had a question for the group, since it is going to be a big planning year on the trail issue. Is there any interest in having a gardening contest, or an arbor day tree planting, more community activities? Lachinski said where does the money come from for that. Moegerle said you could find it in the budget. She wanted to get the discussion started and then go and find the money. It would be really reaching out to the community. It would be something you could do that would be beneficial to the community. She just wanted to throw that out.

Hoffman said as long as you are going to be planting some trees, you might as well have an Arbor Day planting. Ayshford said he has done them in the past and we have done them around recycling day. We typically have the Boy Scouts or other group come out and plant.

Hoffman asked what parks are you looking at putting trees in at. Ayshford said Booster Park is where the focus was going to be to begin with. Hoffman said it would be nice to do them in a smaller unknown park too. Moegerle said we need information and interest.

Lachinski said the gardening thing doesn't really fall with parks. Hoffman said the Arbor day would really work with the parks. Lachinski said what about Rod and Norma Park. Moegerle said how do you get trees. Ayshford said we usually use ball and burlap trees. Larger ones where you can take pictures by them and they are more vandal resistant. He also talked about the Tree City USA. Moegerle asked if there could be a presentation on

Tree City USA at the January meeting. Ayshford said you might have to designate a tree board. Hoffman said that is what it is in a lot of cities. We need to find something to generate some interest. Lachinski said you have to have people attend things. Hoffman said people expect parks and don't understand what it takes to put them together. If we can find some ways to generate some interest and get them thinking. It isn't just Parks; it is everything to do with the City. Then we need to just figure out what we need to do as a Parks board. Lachinski said we maybe could get free trees from Mickman Brothers.

Other
Reports

Moegerle said October 30 was the Local Government Officials meeting. They met at the Cedar Creek Preserve. We had a full house, 60 people plus. Four of the five City Council people were there and also Jack Davis. The discussion was on Cedar Creek and the research and science they conduct. At the meeting they also discussed the water aquapor. Universally she heard "wow they didn't know this was out here." Most noticeably Karen Skepper. John Vondalinde was out there, and he is the Parks Director for Anoka County. It reinforced getting trails out there.

In November we approved Bill to come aboard. We passed the budget. 4-1 she opposed the budget. She believes we will find this time next year we have more money in the coffers.

We are moving forward and dealing with what we got.

She did some recycling. She noticed the lovely plantings that the Lions did by the recycle center. She mentioned it to Dallas and they decided to take over the sign that is coming into the City.

We are looking forward to getting some new ordinances in and completed.

Adjourn

Hoffman motioned to adjourn the December 11, 2013 meeting at 8:15 p.m. Zimmermman seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Anderson
Recording Secretary