

**EAST BETHEL PARK COMMISSION MEETING**  
**January 15, 2014**

The East Bethel Parks Commission met on January 15, 2014 at 7:00 P.M at the East Bethel City Hall for their regular monthly meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bonnie Harvey Bill Zimmermann Denise Lachinski Tim Hoffman  
Kenneth Langmade

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Stacy Voelker Sue Jefferson

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

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

Approve – October 9, 2013 and December 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes  
Lachinski stated the minutes from October 9, 2013 were not updated. We tabled the minutes, from the previous meeting. Lachinski said the changes are “The father daughter, should be Father’s Day softball tournament.” Harvey said she was here, on the October 9, 2013 minutes. Ayshford said on the October 9, 2013 minutes, where was the change? Page 4 paragraph 1, sentence three. Should be father daughter, should be Father’s Day softball tourney. Then on page 5 paragraph 1, it should say Lachinski said not Moegerle on lacrosse. Ayshford asked if there were any other changes on the October 9, 2013 meeting minutes.

**Hoffman made a motion to approve the October 9, 2013 minutes as amended. Harvey seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.**

**Hoffman made a motion to approve the December 11, 2013 minutes as presented. Lachinski seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.**

Parks Financial Information & Parks Capital Funds Summary  
Ayshford said the operations budget finished off under budget. This reflects everything except one pay period and one tool. The Streets budget was a little bit tighter. Between the two of them, we were under budget. Hoffman said you did a great job coming in under budget. Motor fuel is out of your hands. Ayshford said yes, motor fuel and overtime is out of your control and dependant on weather conditions. Lachinski said are they contracted employees or city employees. Ayshford said city employees, there would be overtime on this last one also. Lachinski said people didn’t realize the public works budget comes out of our budget too, and someone at the last City Council meeting brought it up.

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

Soderville/Blaine Athletic Association has submitted a request for reserving the softball/baseball fields for the 2014 season. SBAA is requesting the use of fields 1-8 at Booster West and East from April 14 to July 17 four nights a week (M-Th) and the fields at Anderson Lakes and Norseland Manor Parks two nights a week during that same time period. Weekend use would be limited to two Fridays and two Saturdays at Booster East and West.

At this time the City has received no other requests for weeknight use of ball fields and no conflicting weekend requests. The requested fields are consistent with the use approved for in previous years.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The maintenance and field preparation costs typically incurred by the Public Works Department averages \$6,500 annually. The current fee schedule reflects these costs in the reservation fees.

**Recommendation(s):**

Staff recommends that the Parks Commission consider the rental of the Booster West and East Fields to SBAA for weekday and weekend use as requested in their application and Norseland and Anderson Lakes Parks for use twice per week at the rate set forth in the City fee schedule less 20%. It is also recommended SBAA coordinate and cooperate with other organizations that schedule weekend tournaments at the Booster facilities.

Ayshford stated he did talk to Nancy from SBAA. They have 950 enrolled in the program and 92 are from East Bethel. We have given them a 20% discount in the past on the use of the fields.

Moegerle asked where the 20% discount came from. Hoffman said it was the amount of players that come from East Bethel. He said this was negotiated a number from years ago. He said when it was negotiated; it was due to the bill being very high when their agreement expired.

Zimmermann wanted to know what the last paragraph meant. Ayshford said so it isn't a monopoly by SBAA, and that makes them work with everyone else. Lachinski said we also work with them for the State tournament. Hoffman said Nancy is very good to work with. She is amazing. Lachinski said she has been there a long time.

Lachinski asked if we heard from North Metro Soccer if they were interested this year. Ayshford said we had fields available two years ago, and then we talked to them last year and they weren't interested. Hoffman said they are using the one across from the Public Works on 221<sup>st</sup> in Oak Grove. Lachinski said they were using the one over by the superfund site. It is over off of Viking by the Super America. They put too many teams there so there wasn't enough practice space. That is why she thought they would start moving this way.

**Hoffman motioned to approve the request for the rental of the Booster West and East Fields to SBAA for weekday and weekend use as requested in their application and Norseland and Anderson Lakes Parks for use twice per week at the rate set forth in the City fee schedule less 20%. It is also recommended SBAA coordinate and cooperate with other organizations that schedule weekend tournaments at the Booster facilities. Harvey seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.**

- Tree City USA Requirements
- To qualify as a Tree City USA community, a town or city must meet four standards established by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. These standards were established to ensure that every qualifying community would have a viable tree management plan and program.
1. [A Tree Board or Department](#)
  2. [A Tree Care Ordinance](#)
  3. [A Community Forestry Program With an Annual Budget of at Least \\$2 Per Capita](#)
  4. [An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation](#)

The first standard could be met if the Park Commission were to add the additional title of Park and Tree Commission along with having a City Forester on staff.

The second standard is currently met with our Tree Preservation ordinance (attachment 6.2) already part of our City Code (Chapter 66 Article VIII).

With a population of around 12,000, the third standard would require the City to show an annual forestry budget of at least \$24,000. This budget can include costs associated with tree planting and establishment, tree maintenance and pruning, tree removal, and disease control. The City already performs many of these tasks for public trees in our park system and for trees in public right-of-ways.

The fourth standard could be met by having an Arbor Day celebration each spring. A simple declaration and celebration with a tree planting could take place along with the spring recycling event in late April. The groups involved with each Adopt-A-Park could help with the planting.

We might have to make a few changes. The hardest one to come up is the final one. The \$2.00 per capita, annual budget of \$24,000. Which would be hard. It can be education stuff. Anything we can wrap into trees and green spaces. We do perform some of these tasks. Pruning trees can qualify.

Arbor day celebration. Lot of cities have this with their spring clean up. They either have a scouting group or adopt a park people show up.

The process is easy, other than the budget. If this is something we want to move forward with, we can pursue it. Hoffman said it would require another line item to track it. Lachinski said we have \$50,000. Ayshford said we would not have to create any new accounts or tap any existing funds. We can show what our current costs are for tree related items such as the chipper would get an hourly cost, the truck would get an hourly use, the water truck for water, storm removal would qualify. That is where you make a lot of the hours up. Moegerle said it would be a paper separation. Ayshford said it would just be showing what you have spent. Hoffman said the right of way work. Ayshford said the tree removal and trimming in right of way would be the biggest portion of the required budget.

Ayshford said what about calling the Park and Tree Commission? Would you want that? Lachinski said we were going to Park and Recreation at one time. Ayshford said Ham Lake has a Park and Tree Commission. Andover has a Park Commission and a Green Space Commission. Zimmerman said he would like to see where we fall on this \$24,000 commitment. Just a quick and dirty. Ayshford said we talked about doing the

reforestation of the parks. Planting, establishing, the watering etc, all are included. Also such updates in the newsletter on trees, green space and oak wilt. Moegerle said with all the work we did last year with the cutting. Hoffman said he thinks it would be a fairly easy threshold to come up with. Moegerle said it is an administrative issue, not a position change. The only real change would be adding Arbor day. Hoffman said it would be one more hat for Ayshford. Ayshford said he is already here for that day. Sometimes we get a good deal on the tree for Arbor Day. Lachinski asked if there is a requirement for how many trees we have to plant. Ayshford said after you are established as a tree city, there are a bunch of awards you can apply for. Moegerle said would writing articles for the newsletter be time spent for this. Ayshford said yes.

Ayshford said in Viking Preserve they might have to go back to the drawing board. All the lots will be required to have two trees in their front yards. Lachinski said aren't they suppose to have different trees in the front yard. Ayshford said there is a number of different species.

Zimmermann asked if that budget has to be itemized by line item. Ayshford said no it would be used based on 2013 overall budget. Hoffman said between that and getting the ordinance passed. Ayshford said we already have a tree preservation ordinance that we can use.

Moegerle said it is such a small functional difference in workload. There is no rationale reason to deny it. It is a no brainer. Lachinski said to try it won't cost us anything. Hoffman said it forces us to be more cognizant of the trees. Moegerle said it is a positive thing for the City. Hoffman said if it forces us to plant more trees and that isn't a bad thing.

**Hoffman motioned to pursue the application process and it will be presented at the February meeting. Zimmermann seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.**

#### City Trail Planning

At the December 11, 2013 Park Commission meeting, commission members expressed an interest in developing a map of the city showing existing trails and bike lanes. Staff has been working with the City's geographical information system contractor to develop a trails layer that includes on-road bike lanes, paved off-road trails, natural surface off-road trails, winter use trails, and proposed regional trails.

Attachment 7.1 is the initial development of that map and can be used for future trail planning. Also discussed were trails not operated or owned by the City including snowmobile trails and ATV trails. There are no ATV trails in East Bethel or anywhere in the central part of the state. Two snowmobile trails are located within the City. Trail 83 is located along Viking Blvd and extends from TH 65 to the eastern city limits and Trail 85 runs along TH 65.

We have talked about adding the snowmobile trails. We can add those, they are not maintained or owned by the City. As far as the ATV trails, there is nothing near here. Hoffman said the ATV clubs would probably help us pursue having trails here. Ayshford said most of them are in the State Forest, they aren't along the roadways. Lachinski said the ATVs she has seen them along Hwy 65. Ayshford said they aren't supposed to.

Ayshford said we could add the snowmobile trails. Lachinski asked if we have dedicated walking trails. Ayshford said no, not at this time with the exception of some trails within parks. Harvey asked if there was where Lexington comes into the beach, that isn't listed here. She thinks Jack was here then. He said that isn't a trail as of yet. Harvey said when you take a left coming into the beach, that road goes all the way down to the lake. That was a street easement. Ayshford said that Moegerle has the State trail map. Ayshford said that East Bethel is the starting point for going north. Moegerle said it is good for people to know, and good for our businesses. Hoffman said you need fairly good parking place. Moegerle said there is a bar there on Coon Lake Beach, which would be a draw. Hoffman said there was a trail by the fire station to the park. We already had the access. Moegerle said it is swamp and a dumping ground for leaves and branches. Hoffman said would it be conducive for the kids to use it. Harvey said the first development when you come into the beach, going towards Smokey's. Kids use to be able to go down the road and there was a trail for them to go to the park. Moegerle said if they come out by the fire barn, do they have good access to Smokey's. Ayshford said the area you are talking about, is right here on the map. Moegerle asked if the access was on the other side of Emerson Rd. Harvey said the one that she thought was most feasible was the one behind the fire station. Hoffman said it dumps right off in the park. Harvey said we actually walked about and looked at it a couple of years ago. Hoffman said it is by the skateboard park. Ayshford said you are talking about right about here. Moegerle asked if we had a right of way there. Harvey said that is City property. Her understanding is that is all City property. The grids that look like roads are City property. Harvey said she was thinking straight through.

Someone other than the City owns the one piece of property discussed and he said the City owns the street right of way. The two City owned property are green, on her computer, according to Moegerle.

Harvey said the trail we were looking at trying to get people to the park without having to go all the way around by the lake. Ayshford said a year around trail. Hoffman said no, just during the summer. So people would use the park more often. Ayshford said so a boardwalk type trail. Moegerle said is that pretty swampy back there. Ashford said yes it is, and it is something we can look at.

Ayshford asked if the comprehensive plan shows this trail? He looked at Zimmermann's book. It does show it as a proposed trail.

Moegerle wanted to know what is the next step. Do we want to hear from snowmobile and ATV clubs? Harvey said yes she thinks so. Ayshford said so do we want to invite them to our next meeting. Hoffman said yes, we should. Lachinski said could we add them in a different color. Moegerle said if they could come to this meeting after talking with their membership, so they could come prepared to have a discussion. Hoffman said it wouldn't hurt to send them a copy of the map. Ayshford said they are here every other Friday. Lachinski said then it could be our March meeting.

Hoffman said some of the ditch riding is iffy at best. Ayshford said do they have to get DNR approval. Hoffman said they probably would have to go back to DNR unless it is on City property. Harvey was wondering what the speed limit is on Coon Lake. When they are coming through the channel it is about 100 feet from our house. Hoffman said yes, 50 mph. Harvey said she loves sleds and ATVs. She is pretty sure one of them out there was a race sled.

Ayshford said we should invite them to the February meeting. Moegerle said obviously there would be a public meeting for input. There may be further changes. Hoffman said they are aware of the process. He said there is a trail by St. Peter that has been in process for five years. Zimmermann wanted to know if there are any bicycle clubs in the City.

Lachinski said the only one that she has been approached by is the horse people. Hoffman said they run into the same problem and there isn't much ditch to use. Ayshford said there is one horse trail that just expired with Cedar Creek. That expired with their MOU. Moegerle asked if the February meeting was a good time to have Jeff come in and explain. Ayshford said the MOU is good for 99 years, only the horse portion expired. Ayshford said Jeff is leaving there, and going to take care of a wildlife preserve out of state.

Hoffman said the proposed trail on Fish Lake is the cross-country ski trail and the proposed trail is in purple. Later this month, he is getting together with Anoka County (all public works people are getting together) to discuss trail and park planning.

Moegerle said on some of these proposed routes, is there a way we could get information on how much a segment might be. So in distance, and we know how much it costs per foot. So we can start planning this trail here and that trail there. So we can identify segments. Is that a reasonable way to approach it? Ayshford said we could get a per foot cost. He could get a cost from the engineer. Then we can start placing them on the map where we would like to see them put in. We have a good connection on Wild Rice Drive and up to Fish Lake. A connection along 213<sup>th</sup> and County Road 74 would be a good connection to have. Moegerle said it would be good to have Linwood's plan for the February meeting.

Ayshford asked if anyone was familiar with the snowmobile clubs. Voelker is a member and so is DeRoche. They are members of different ones. Langmade will ask the Shoebeck's what one they belong to. Lachinski said they would know the names of the ones we want to contact. Hoffman said the DNR's website has a listing of all the snowmobile clubs. Lachinski said how far out do we want to go. Hoffman said they are usually involved in their local areas. Ayshford said there is a trail off Coon that goes over that way. Hoffman said they are nice trails and well maintained. Ayshford said where else do you think they would put in a trail in East Bethel. Lachinski said to go west. Zimmermann said on Round Lake Boulevard and County Road 22. Ayshford said that is a major trail there. That would be basically going down Viking to get there. Moegerle asked if we need Oak Grove and Linwood connections for the next meeting. Hoffman said we usually go around Typo from this area. Most of it is road riding to get to Typo. You cross Martin Lake and there is a trail on the north side of the lake. Hoffman said there are beautiful trails through Carlos Avery. It would be nice to have one or two more east west routes through East Bethel. Zimmermann asked what kind of surface would they be for snowmobile routes. Hoffman said they would be bare. They can't be paved. Moegerle said if the ATV users use it, then it ruins it for the snowmobilers. Hoffman said no. Ayshford said the biggest impact for the ATVs is the County and DNR rules. Zimmermann wanted to know if this plan takes into account bicycle plans. Hoffman said we would need to look at all the uses. Different entities have money for trails. You have to figure out what groups to have involved to get money released. If we can make it a multi use all around trail, then we would be more likely to get funding. Moegerle said in dealing with Met Council, in talking they said we aren't part of the Anoka County Park and Trails

Plan. Once we are part of it, it will take up to seven years to get the money and we need to be ready for the funding. Hoffman said we don't have a regional park in East Bethel.

Moegerle said the bike people would be necessary. Lachinski said you see them riding, but she did research them and didn't find any in the area. Moegerle said he should check with Mike Jungbauer. He use to bike to the capitol.

Ayshford asked if anything jumps out at the City portion. Hoffman said we had talked from the new development to Norseland. Lachinski said what about the natural areas by the school district. Ayshford said are they open to the public. Hoffman said yes they are. Ayshford said do they want people out there when the kids are in school. Hoffman said they do some outdoor classroom out there. Lachinski said she has been on a few field trips back there. People don't really know about it because it isn't advertised. That would be a perfect area for a biking trail. It comes out on Sims down there. It is pretty much straight through. A walking and biking trail would be good for the kids in the summer. Hoffman said you are going to add the ones we talked about as proposed trails. Ayshford said we have that one off of Durant. We are still waiting to hear back from the County on that. Lachinski said the one the neighborhood requested.

Harvey said what about Lake Shore, and doing a trail on the other side and make it one way. Moegerle said the concern would be it would be a racetrack. She thinks it would be hard to resurrect, in her humble opinion. Harvey said there were people for and against it. Moegerle said it would be valuable to get an overlay of the comprehensive map trails and the public owned land. The trail plan and the comprehensive plan do a lot things. So then we could have destinations. Ayshford said on this map too. Moegerle said yes.

Ayshford said we don't have the shape file for either of those. He would have to do them all by hand. He will check on that one.

Council  
Report &  
Other Reports

The Chairperson should be elected January. Unless she is mistaken. Ayshford said we do that in February after the terms expire on January 31.

She is very happy with the discussion. She doesn't know what her commission assignment would be. Normally she would know by now. You have made great progress over the year. We have the plan that will be in place. It is going to be exciting to see and meet the new representative from Cedar Creek. I am sure the MOU is not going to be at the top of the list. They will get that from Mary.

Pretty much that is all. If you have any questions regarding to Park matters only. She will do what she can.

Adjourn

**Harvey motioned to adjourn the January 15, 2014 meeting at 8:20 p.m. Lachinski seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Anderson  
Recording Secretary