

EAST BETHEL PARK COMMISSION MEETING

April 9, 2014

The East Bethel Parks Commission met on April 9, 2014 at 7:05 P.M at the East Bethel City Hall for their regular monthly meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Hoffman Denise Lachinski Kenneth Langmade Sue Jefferson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Bill Zimmermann Bonnie Harvey Stacy Voelker

ALSO PRESENT: Nate Ayshford, Public Works Director
Tim Harrington, City Council

Adopt
Agenda

Hoffman motioned to adopt the agenda with one change moving 6.0 before 5.0. Lachinski seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Approve –
March 12,
2014

Harrington wanted to know if there was any feedback on the Arena. Ayshford said nothing has been placed on the website as of yet.

Hoffman made a motion to approve the March 12, 2014 minutes as submitted. Jefferson seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Parks
Financial
Information &
Parks Capital
Funds
Summary

Not a whole lot happening. There is just the overtime and the wages so far. Nothing has come out of the capital budget.

Hoffman asked if the workman comp insurance premium is paid up at the beginning of the year. Ayshford said yes. It is all paid at the beginning of the year.

Jefferson motioned to present the parks financial information and parks capital fund summary as presented. Hoffman seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Proposed
Cellular
Tower

The City of East Bethel has been contacted by Verizon Wireless for possible locations of a new cell phone tower at or near Booster Park that would help improve the wireless phone and data service in the area and along the TH 65 corridor. Staff has researched possible locations around both Booster Parks with enough room for the tower and support structures, available power supply, and areas that would have the least impact on surrounding homes and park visitors. Four of the possible locations are included in attachment 6.1.

Staff met with representatives from the tower company and Verizon Wireless to tour the possible locations and discuss the proposed tower. Site 3 was the location that the representatives preferred followed by site 1 and site 2. The initial discussions indicated that the tower would be similar to the one located behind the East Bethel Arena and stand approximately 20 feet taller. Because it is below 200 feet, the FAA does not require any flashing warning lights.

Depending on weather conditions, the Park Commission may wish to visit the locations during the meeting.

Staff is seeking a recommendation from the Park Commission on a possible location.

Lachinski asked if they could be at this location. Ayshford said it isn't part of their location. Lachinski asked if this would require a public hearing. We didn't get the packet until the Friday before the meeting last month. She is trying to get the word out, and she lives in the area. Jefferson said we recommended the second site. Ayshford said Verizon liked the one right behind City hall. Then they preferred site one and then site two. We preferred site two. It is furthest away from homes. Hoffman asked if City hall is on a different property or is it park property. Ayshford said it is all one parcel. Lachinski said she got some records from a deceased resident. The history of the park was given to her, and how they bought the park. How it was suppose to be for recreational use and only park use. It didn't say how it was deeded to the City. Hoffman said by putting the public works building and fire station there, we already violated that. Lachinski said a lot of cities are looking at municipal areas where kids would try to climb on it. Hoffman said kids wouldn't be able to climb on it because of the fencing. The way we have it in the City it has to be on City property. Lachinski said is it easier because it has been cleaned up and open. Do we let everyone build what they want? We have lots of open space, does it have to be here. Ayshford said we looked at what fit what they wanted, but this was all the City has with regards to public property. We did provide them Bonde and a couple other parks. Hoffman said they have to have them in a certain area. Lachinski said what if every park is going to become a cell tower location. Is that going to happen? Ayshford said any tower that goes up would have to have multiple carries and be approved by the City Council.

Lachinski said who gets the money. Ayshford said the General Fund. Jefferson said we were talking about down by the fire department. She thought we might get a different build or higher. Ayshford said this is going to be as high as it can be. It will cover Hwy 65 and 221st. Lachinski said we don't own any land at 221st and Hwy 65. Ayshford said we offered up the water tower. It is all set up for it, but that is not where they need it. Hoffman said he looked at it.

Lachinski said we lose cell service in our house all the time. She thinks it is just strange that they would have to be in a park. It is our job to protect the parks. Ayshford said he has been pushing two if it has to go here. It has the least impact on the park. Lachinski said it might be good for the Fire Department. Jefferson said it couldn't be on private property. Ayshford said it can be on private property in a commercial area and it has to be approved by the City. Hoffman said it couldn't be in R1 residential. Which is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the City right there. He understands where Lachinski is coming from, to keep it out of the park. They will have to cut down some trees.

Lachinski said what about over by Fat Boys. Ayshford said on those sites it could only be 120 on that property. Jefferson said she doesn't like the idea of putting it right there at all. Right behind our building. Nowhere in the park. Ayshford said it is twenty feet higher than the one on Hwy 65. Jefferson said she would tell them to put it somewhere else. Where else do we have public land? Hoffman said there are undeveloped spots. If they are not developed they don't have electricity. He thinks putting it by the maintenance shed is not a big deal. Langmade thinks the same. Hoffman said it is separated enough from

the park. Lachinski said it is the easiest site for power and clearing. Hoffman said the second site they have to clear trees. They have access to power. Lachinski said if it is already a municipal area, why wouldn't we keep it all together.

At 7:20 p.m. the Commission went to look at the three sites. The Commission reconvened at 7:43 p.m.

Jefferson motioned to not do it at all, but if we are forced to do it, recommend Site 2 (SS1 V.2). Lachinski seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carries unanimously. Lachinski said if we had other options.

Sandhill
Crane Natural
Area
Development
Update

On March 26, 2013, staff met with members of the DNR, MPCA, and Anoka County Parks to discuss management activities for the Sandhill Crane Natural Area (SCNA). The management group is planning to apply for grant monies available from the MPCA's Natural Resource Damages Assessment and Landfill Cleanup Act Insurance Recovery Effort to help fund development of the SCNA.

The proposed improvements to the SCNA are designed to make the area easier to access and provide more trails for users to travel throughout the area. The improvements would include parking areas, observation decks, informational trailhead kiosks, and board walks through the wetlands.

The proposal will need to be submitted by October 2014 and would require letters of support from the different organizations including the City of East Bethel.

Staff recommends approval of the proposed project and submittal of letter of support from the City of East Bethel.

Ayshford said we have a diagram. This is all contingent on the land being designated as State land, versus school trust. Hoffman wanted to know the timetable. Ayshford said it needs to be done in 18 months. They will swap land. Jefferson said who would have the land. Ayshford said it would be State forest. Jefferson said would they want to clear-cut. Ayshford said no, that is school trust. Anoka County will be leasing the land until then. We have been out there a few times with people. On the first sheet is the south area. This first map, this is the ice arena; this is the rapid infiltration basin. This piece is all oak. This little point is oak. There are nice views. That is why they have the two observation points. There is already a road built here for the rapid infiltration, and we talked to Met Council about putting in a parking lot. They are on board with that. Jefferson was asking where we are at on the map. Ayshford said you have to wiggle through the development to get to the land. There is a paved road that goes through. Jefferson said she has been out there. It looks like the same. Ayshford said there is already a pretty good trail in there. It won't take much to get the trails completed. The second one is closer. It is this same road. The access point would be off the end of this street here. This one needs more improvements. A couple boardwalk sections. They would build an observation deck. Lachinski asked if it would be similar to Bunker Hills or Springbrook. Ayshford said yes. Hoffman asked if they would be natural surface trails or paved. Ayshford said it would be natural. There would be off street parking here. In the past we couldn't remove trees. When they do make this switch in designation, we will be able to do some of this stuff. The last one is on

the north end. It is a natural area on the north end. It is these two sections here. The last attachment is the budget they have come up with and what they are going to apply for. This is all available through the MPCA. It is to help improve the environment due to the landfills.

Hoffman motioned to submit a letter of support for this project, as submitted. Langmade seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.

Lachinski said it seems like a good idea.

Parks Capitol
Improvement
Planning

Ayshford said attached is the budget we came up with last year and a draft 2015 budget. For right now we will be looking at the same amount from last year. The recommendation was to withhold the budget for 2014. We will have to prioritize projects and how much money we were going to spend on them.

Soderville was looking for a baseball field. We looked at making soccer and lacrosse fields. We looked at more skateboard equipment. We went over ice rink improvements and we go the updates.

Lachinski said she thinks Voelker asked if there was a list for immediate attention for the parks, things that were broken. Ayshford said we do the inspections at this time of the year. Booster East is older. They should meet playground equipment inspection. Anderson park should be ok. Rod and Norma Park has lots of vandalism issues. Lachinski said how do we protect new things. Ayshford said if you come up with a solution, please let us know. Hoffman said trail cams. Lachinski said they destroyed the ones in Booster Park.

Langmade asked if the stuff over by the water tower was put on hold. Ayshford said it was downsized from 62 to 48 homes. They had to reshape the lots. Harrington said the Army Corp of Engineers has their hands in it. Ayshford said they aren't going to do housing this year, just grading. Lachinski said Anoka County owned some of the land in between and we talked about doing a trail to the other park in the area. Ayshford said it is probably a tax forfeit property. They do have plans for development all the way up Jackson Street. Lachinski asked if how they are going to develop the development. Will it be random? Ayshford said yes. So for the CIPs, on the draft. The blanket park dedication fees are no longer being use. It describes how the new formula works. Above 6 units per acre, then it kicks in another 1% for the units. It is a little bit hard to project what we will get from that fund. Hoffman said it would nice to get some funds. Ayshford said we could do a wish list for that fund to prioritize which projects will be taken on once the money is available. Right now he has left them all blank, the trail one is empty as well. He carried over on the other two. We are open to moving things around to where everyone wants.

Lachinski said the ice arena was an immediate action. Do we know what the cost is on that? Ayshford said \$30,000/\$35,000. Hoffman said that is doing the warming house or the rink? Ayshford said it is just the rink. Harrington said how do you feel about a casual rink on one end. Ayshford said we could flood the area next to it. Lachinski asked if the park and ride would be moving over by the theater. Ayshford said there would be bus service at the theater. That is a better location for it and eventually that might be shifted to the development on the northwest corner. Hoffman said if we are going to do anything

with the ice arena. We need an area for people to skate, which are not playing hockey. Ayshford said the area inside the rink is so uneven; it takes a lot of layers of water to get the whole thing covered. Jefferson said the \$30,000 doesn't cover that. Ayshford said no, it is for lights, boards, etc. We might be able to level the area. Jefferson said maybe we could put all our money into doing things right.

Lachinski said North Metro Soccer was looking at other fields, so maybe Bonde park won't be needed. But *then* she heard they were putting one in. Jefferson said how much was the construction on the soccer field. Ayshford said the irrigation was about \$60,000. Lachinski said it is already flat. Ayshford said some areas need fill and that location would need a fill. Hopefully we will have park dedication fees. Lachinski asked if there would be park dedication fees for Fat Boys. Ayshford said no we only get that once. We have been looking at trail dedication fees. But for this new development, they have added a trail. The best time to build a trail is when the development is being built. Jefferson wanted to know if the plat would be brought before the Commission. Ayshford said yes.

Lachinski said the ice arena, and then the North Metro soccer fields. That is what we were working towards is working with the youth organizations. The SAA gentleman said a couple of years ago they were going to give us some money. Did we get anything? Ayshford said we haven't followed up, because our funding was shelved. Lachinski said they have a new president, so now is the time. They are a bigger organization now. They merged with Blaine traveling. Hoffman said a lot of stuff has been done. Ayshford said the new president did contact us, to see if we would want to turn a field into a grass infield for younger kids. It would need irrigation. For softball tournaments the field wouldn't be used. Lachinski said what about field five, could we get water there. Ayshford said we could see about tapping in here. Lachinski said a regulation field is more of a need. Ayshford said they are 60-foot bases, versus 90-foot. It is like a little league field. Hoffman said you play that until 10. They are talking about a small amount of kids. Lachinski said with a regulation, they are fields for older kids. Those kids are already going to other places. Hoffman said our town ball team doesn't even play here. They have lights at St. Francis. They can play until midnight there. For a long time the City maintained the field. The field would get used. It is difficult to find a good field. Lachinski said they just fixed the field in Ham Lake. Ayshford the field right behind the shop might be a good place for that. It is low enough that the grass might do ok. Hoffman said are there any other fields in the parks that don't get use. Ayshford said Bonde and Anderson Lakes aren't used. There is a nice field down in Coon Lake Beach and has a nice setting. It is in a low spot. Hoffman said that is a multi use field.

Ayshford said he would bring it back. Lachinski said maybe should do the tour in June, versus July. Maybe earlier is better than later. Lachinski said if we can find an official group of skateboarders, we might be able to get funds for that park. Hoffman said that is difficult out here. What about checking with Pinewskis in Anoka? Lachinski said she could talk to them. Isanti has a full park dedicated to BMX. Hoffman said we had one here too.

Ayshford said he would put something together for the next meeting. Ice rink for 2015. We don't have any funds for 2014. We could do that before the new season. Hoffman said we should go back to the Council to do the Ice Arena project. Lachinski said people don't think we maintain the parks. She thinks that it is evident when you are in the ice arena is in disrepair. Hoffman said maybe we should go back to Council to see if we can

get the project moving forward this year. It would be nice to get it done before City clean up. Lachinski asked if the Lions would help out. Hoffman said the Lions don't have gambling. Ham Lake Lions doesn't have gambling. The East Bethel Lions don't have gambling, so they don't have the funds anymore. Ayshford asked if the Lions don't want to do it anymore. Hoffman said you have to have a gambling manager. Lachinski said St. Francis Youth Hockey, are they good. Maybe they would give us a good way to get equipment. Hoffman said maybe we could get used boards. We got that guy who works for rink tech – Chris Nemeyer. He might be able to turn us on to used boards. That would be a quick way to get some of that stuff done.

Ayshford said he would put it on 2015, we will see if we can move everything up a year. Lachinski said 2016 the soccer complex. We thought soccer first and then baseball field. To move the soccer fields to get them ready. Ayshford said if we do the baseball fields first, we wouldn't have any soccer fields. Hoffman said he would like to see the baseball field come first. He thinks 2/3 of the residents don't know where Bonde park is. It would be nice to have some visible projects. If we can get a trail in somewhere, we might spur interest. The idea is to link the parks. So people can get from one park to another. Jefferson said if we have our park tour, since we don't have a lot of money. Maybe we could take a tour of some of these parks. Ayshford said we could do Booster, the Ice Arena and the Sandhill. Hoffman said Bonde. It would be nice to look at John Anderson. Ayshford said the roads projects take place for them right at this time of year, then once the grass stops growing we do the other projects.

Hoffman said on the trails one, he would like to see the trail from the new development to Norsland. They won't have a park in that neighborhood. That should be fairly inexpensive if we do it as natural surface for now. Lachinski said what about the one off of Wild Rice Drive. Ayshford said it is pretty wet and we are having problems getting a culvert in. It is located off of Durant and Wild Rice. It is Clarence Anderson addition. Both connections connect up, but not over the culvert. There is a huge open water area we have to cross. There is only one actual ditch. It is like a backwater area. Hoffman said he doesn't think we walked it. Lachinski said as long as the residents asked for it, we should check it out. Ayshford said this one is wide, the other one flows. This whole area is pretty soft. It would be a natural surface trail. Hoffman said is it peat there. Ayshford said it is an expensive fix for the peat area.

Hoffman said what about out by you, didn't you guys want a trail. Langmade said no. Lachinski said they wanted new playground equipment. It looks really good. They probably didn't know they needed a park until we told them they did.

Lachinski said all these random lots that are Anoka County are forfeitures. Hoffman said that lot there is park dedication. Ayshford said the one area is dry. It is swamp grass. We cut a trail through the trees. Lachinski said we did what we said we could do. Hoffman said the county has already turned you down. Ayshford said they haven't responded. Hoffman said it wouldn't hurt to go back and ask them again. Lachinski said it seems strange that we started but didn't stop. We will have to keep working with the County. Ayshford said the development by Norsland would also require us to cross a ditch. Lachinski said usually there is a story behind that. Hoffman said if you could do those two into 2015 that would be great. Jefferson asked what we are calling these. Oakbrook Acres trail and Norsland Manor trail connection said Ayshford. Jefferson asked where the water tower is. Hoffman said if we could get trails started. We can explain to people what we

are trying to do. He realizes that our budget will not allow a lot. At least we can get started. People might not mind an increase in taxes when they can see things getting done. We have good parks up here. Lachinski said the trail by Booster Park is a great trail and use has increased. You have people biking and walking with little ones. She thinks that we need to display what we have and keep it going. Hoffman said the EDA should market our parks. Langmade said anything else on this? Lachinski said we would wait to see what Nate throws together. Hoffman asked if Ayshford had any ideas. Ayshford said the ball field, the ice arena, etc. Hoffman said hopefully are hearing from the guys who work for you. Lachinski said we redid all the mulch and edging. Hoffman said you go by anytime of the day, and there are kids in them. Lachinski said Booster East doesn't have swings and the equipment is for toddlers.

Council Report & Other Reports Thank Denise for the Booster Fundraiser it was a great job. Thank you Route 65 for food. May 3 at the Beach for recycling the April 26 for Arbor Day. The Sunrise Breakfast is tomorrow.

Lachinski said the town hall meeting might be a good time to talk about the cell phone tower. Ayshford said we could maybe get a mock up. Harrington said it is going to be 20 feet taller than the one by the ice arena. Ayshford said he thought they could do the tube thing, but they can't those types high enough for what they need here.

On Arbor day they will do the tree planting and they will also be doing the clean up. It will be a good photo op for them. Lachinski said could we get some good press out of that. We could get it in the paper. Hoffman wondered where the tree would be planted. Ayshford said where there was a lot of oak wilt.

We already had the pet clinic. We had 250-300 people come through. Lachinski said we could move the fundraiser to the same day as the pet clinic.

Adjourn **Hoffman motioned to adjourn the April 10, 2014 meeting at 8:45p.m. Jefferson seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Anderson
Recording Secretary