

## EAST BETHEL PARK COMMISSION MEETING

August 13, 2014

The East Bethel Parks Commission met on August 13, 2014 at 7:04 P.M at the East Bethel City Hall for their regular monthly meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Zimmermann Tim Hoffman Denise Lachinski Kenneth Langmade  
Sue Jefferson Bonnie Harvey Stacy Voelker

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT: Nate Ayshford, Public Works Director  
Bob DeRoche, City Council

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

**Approve – June 11 2014**    **Lachinski made a motion to approve the June 11, 2014 minutes as submitted with Zimmerman excused. Harvey seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.**

**Parks Financial Information & Parks Capital**            For the operations budget, the biggest thing there was a lot of vandalism at Whispering Oaks Park. They painted the equipment, the shed, the concrete, etc. The concrete needed to be repainted. They did paint garage doors in the neighborhood and a fence. Everything else is on track for the budget. Nothing has been used in the capitol budget.

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

**Sandhill Crane Natural Area Grant Application**            The Anoka County Parks Department has finished the grant application for improvements to the Sandhill Crane Natural Area. The grant would cover the cost of natural area restoration and installation of recreational facilities including boardwalks, benches, and observation decks.

**Update**            The grant funds are provided by the Closed Landfill Natural Resources Damages Fund. The application is seeking \$1,060,000 which would completely fund the proposed improvements to the SCNA.

They are seeking comments from the stakeholders. They have attached the official resolution. Hoffman asked who will be responsible for maintenance. Ayshford said it will be both. They will take care of the trails and we will take care of the plowing the parking lot and garbage. The County handles maintenance of capital improvements. Hoffman said if they decide to make the trails natural surface, who would maintain them. DeRoche said they are planning on keeping them natural. Hoffman said the proposed City trail would be all us. Ayshford said that is Met Council's property. That is the one parking lot we would

take care of. That is a wood chipped trail. We would just jump off of that. That is labeled wrong, it is owned by Met Council. The City owns the area on the south east corner, right by the gun club. DeRoche said the maps on the website need to be updated. They show a City trail going through the gun club. They need to update trail maps.

Hoffman asked if we need to make a motion for approval. Ayshford said what they have recommended or make changes. Lachinski asked if they would be paved bike trails. Ayshford said they will be wood-chipped. The area is hunting. Hoffman asked if there would be an area for ATVs. Ayshford said no, not that kind of trail. Lachinski said we had talked about horses and snowmobiles. Ayshford said no horses and no motorized vehicles.

DeRoche showed Ayshford the area he was talking about on the website. Ayshford said they are proposed trails. At one time they had talked about making a connection there. A lot of these are just lines on the map. Jefferson said they are dotted lines, they were just proposed.

**Hoffman motioned approval of the Sandhill Crane Natural Area Grant Application. Voelker seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.**

**Anoka  
County  
Regional  
Trail Master  
Plan  
Amendment**

Anoka County is seeking comments on the proposal and a recommendation for submittal. The Anoka County Parks Department has finished the Draft Master Plan Amendment for the East Anoka County Regional Trail and is seeking comments and input from stakeholders. The amendment includes the addition of the East Anoka County Regional Trail which follows Lexington Ave to Viking Blvd in East Bethel and also crosses back into the city near Durant St and the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve. Once complete, the trail would provide a connection for East Bethel residents to the entire Anoka County trail system and the metro-wide trail system. Another added benefit of the proposed trail location is that it would help complete the trail loop around Fish Lake. Anoka County is seeking input and comments before the plan is finalized.

Ayshford said they are seeking input from us.

Langmade said the interesting thing is the trail we had planned up Bataan, would have fit in perfect with this. Ayshford said he had the same thought. You could have it anywhere. Hoffman said we wouldn't have to pay for the one going up Durant. This is a long time coming. Lachinski asked how long before they will come to our area. Ayshford said this is past where the Viking improvements took place. This is the first step. Once it is on there, then the funding can be provided from Met Council. Linwood has been pushing a lot. They have a good trail plan around Martin Lake.

Hoffman said it looks like it goes down to 221<sup>st</sup>. Lachinski said wasn't an overlay of 221<sup>st</sup> moved up. Ayshford said that doesn't include a trail. Harvey asked why it is crossing over Lexington. Ayshford said possibly due to less houses impacted. Langmade said it is interesting the growth projections. Ayshford said we hope they are correct. Harvey said she is really thrilled to be able to get to the Beach, to the park and go swimming and come back.

DeRoche asked where they came up with the 18,200. Ayshford said from Met Council. DeRoche said Met Council dropped it back down considerably. Ayshford said it from the

Met Council Thrive adopted May 2014. DeRoche said that would be something to bring up with Pat Bjorn. Ayshford said he hasn't seen that study. Lachinski said yes, to see where they come from.

Hoffman said it will fit in with our own trail program. This doesn't give us much in East Bethel, but it is more than what we have had on the County plans for years. DeRoche said aren't Anoka County Regional Trails meeting coming up. Ayshford said yes, the end of this month. They want the comments by the end of this week. There is a public open house on August 27<sup>th</sup> at Linwood City Hall from 4-6 p.m.

Zimmerman said they show the proposed trail on Viking. Why didn't they do it with the reconstruction? He apologized he was off a road. It wasn't Viking.

**Harvey motioned to approve the Anoka County Regional Trail Master Plan Amendment. Zimmerman seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.**

**Council  
Report &  
Other  
Reports**

CIPs are done for the next four years. The skateboard park over at the beach is really in bad shape. Harvey said a few kids sent a letter to the City. Ayshford doesn't remember it. The equipment was moved from Hidden Haven over to the Beach. Hoffman said he doesn't remember if there is skateboard park equipment for the Beach. Harrington said it is for Booster Park for 2015. Lachinski said because we only had \$50,000 to work with. We should push for more money for parks. DeRoche said things are loosening up. Hoffman said go up to Isanti and look at their skate park. Lachinski said their complex is very impressive. They also are going to have an indoor BMX park. Ayshford said do they have their wakeboard park. Hoffman said it is a very impressive park. If you just turn by the John Deer dealership it is right there. They have a skate park and soccer fields there. Ayshford said he would be curious to find out what their budget is. Hoffman said he bets it isn't \$50,000.

Booster Day did really well. We won't have a meeting until September. The weather was great. The dance attendance was down. Silent auction made quite a bit of money. Turtles were released. We had a three legged turtle. Everyone was really happy. Movie in the park, there was a mishap with the screen. We had to keep moving the screen. Lots of attendance. The food stuff with the seniors had a little mishap.

DeRoche said there were lots of comments about the parade. It is economic development. Langmade said the seniors were very impressed. The breakfast we had to add tables. They were all filled up, no place to sit. Same way at lunch time. He hasn't gotten the final results on the silent auction. He thinks it was about \$1,400. He hasn't heard what he craft or bake sale did. He even got a free breakfast out of it. One of the people who won on the auction, Langmade sold him the ticket, so he invited them to breakfast.

Lachinski said we got a lot of compliments about the parks. DeRoche said the public works employees work hard, they worked their butts off. Ayshford said a lot of compliments on the fireworks. Hoffman said the dance cleared out after the fireworks. He was there until 2. Lachinski said it still goes after it gets dark. Hoffman said about 2/3 of the crowd leave after the fireworks. Lachinski said the kids would have to leave at nine if it was a bar.

DeRoche said he thinks the City is doing well. We have the payments figured out through

2015. We are looking at refinancing a bond. It is challenge but it is fun. He hears a lot of good things about East Bethel. It is a little bit more professional. The communication with the state and county are really good and they are willing to work with us. He has been here for 30 years, and he is not going anywhere.

We had a meeting with the businesses on the east side and 10 seem interested out of 13. He is not willing to vote to force them to hook up and put them out of business. Osborne and Chies would like to develop areas. He has a problem spending money unless the City is going to get something out of it. You can't drive the businesses out because then the people will go. We have talked about doing the service road, but the sewer and water should be done at the same time. A lot of talking is being done behind the scenes. He gave Jack the numbers he had from all the promises. He thought no existing businesses would have to hook up until 2030.

Lachinski said will they fix the intersection by the theater. Ayshford said we are looking at different options. Harrington said weren't we looking at going 181<sup>st</sup>. DeRoche said we are trying to work with MnDOT to have an acceleration lane and it would take traffic load off of 187<sup>th</sup>. Lachinski said there are County Roads and State Roads. DeRoche said it would be \$1.5 to put in a light if we put in the traffic onto Jackson. If we dump out onto Jackson. It is hard to get off of Jackson onto Viking. There will have to have some sort of control. MnDOT basis their decisions on death. 221<sup>st</sup> was pretty hot at the last election. Hoffman said they county north and southbound separately.

Ayshford said we are looking at different ways to finance it. DeRoche said it has to do with Parks. Parks and trails suffered for a few years. We had this debt, how do we pay for it. We looked at what we had to have. It is starting to loosen up. Lachinski said you can see building and progress.

Lachinski asked when the fall town hall meeting is. DeRoche said there will be a couple meet the candidates. There are three running for Mayor and three running for Council. It will be an interesting fall.

Hoffman said he has been going to North Branch for their music in the parks. Lachinski said the City pays for it. Hoffman said the City doesn't pay, but the business does it. Ayshford said the City of Andover does it. Hoffman said in Booster East. Harrington said Anderson would be a good park. Lachinski said we would need an arts budget. Langmade said this has come up with the seniors. We are not getting new members because the City of Ham Lake pays for trips. Lachinski said we can look at the school district. Langmade said he got involved because Troy Ferguson asked him to. They meet about every month. We haven't had a meeting for a couple months. He thinks with fall there will be meetings. Lachinski said to let her know. She will go to the meeting with him. They must have some deal with the school district. Jefferson said we have the field trips, but the senior has to pay for them. Langmade said he use to set up trips when he was active in Spring Lake Park. Lachinski said how often the seniors meet in the Beach with your group. Langmade said we don't.

## **Adjourn**

**Harvey motioned to adjourn the August 13, 2014 meeting at 7:45 p.m. Lachinski seconded; all in favor, motion carries unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Jill Anderson  
Recording Secretary