

EAST BETHEL PARK COMMISSION MEETING

June 10, 2015

The East Bethel Park Commission met on June 10th, 2015 at 6:30 P.M at the Cedar Creek Ecosystem and Scientific Reserve Center for their regular monthly meeting.

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Bill Zimmermann

ALSO PRESENT: Nate Ayshford, Public Works Director
 Tim Harrington, City Council
 Sue Irons, Recording Secretary

Adopt Agenda **Mr Hoffman motioned to adopt the agenda. Ms Voelker seconded; all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

Approve **Ms Lachinski made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr Hoffman**
May 13, 2015 **seconded; all in favor, motion carried unanimously.**
Minutes

Park Financial Mr. Ayshford presented the current fiscal year Park Maintenance financial status for
Information & member's review (Attachment 4.1). Ms Lachinski asked about the summer hire program.
Capital Funds Mr Ayshford reported that they hired one employee for the season. Mr Hoffman asked
Summary about the equipment replacement fund. Mr Ayshford explained the money is put into the
 account from the General Fund from each department and is allocated according to the
 department's needs and the equipment replacement schedule.

Mr Hoffman motioned to approve the financial report. Ms Lachinski seconded; all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Deer Haven Residents of the Deer Haven Development attended the meeting to discuss requested
Park changes to Deer Haven Park and propose upgrades funded from money left over from the
 initial park development raised by the residents.

Mr Greg Castellano, Mr Dennis Feela and Mr Albert Bailey presented their request to use the remaining \$869 left in the fund they had gathered to make improvements to the park in their neighborhood. The money has been in a non-interest bearing account at a local bank for several years but the bank has been charging fees that have taken over \$100 from the total funds so they would like to use it before any more is lost to fees.

They had previously installed a basketball hoop and two grills. They would like to add a horseshoe court, some park benches and improve the baseball diamond if possible. The neighbors are willing to provide the labor and many of the materials as well as using the remaining funds to purchase anything they would need.

The City had previously decreased mowing in the park due to lack of use. The residents would like to see the whole park mowed again so it is completely open for use. They are

willing to do the mowing themselves but Mr Ayshford stated he would prefer the City provide that service. Recently, one of the residents noted several holes in the ground that he believed were about four feet deep. He filled them in but was concerned about who was digging the holes.

Currently the park has a pavilion, 2 grills, swings and the basketball hoop. The swings are very old and the basketball hoop needs some work (which the residents can do themselves) but they would like to add more. Mr Ayshford stated he thought the City could relocate at least one picnic table to the park and instructed that the park benches must be on a concrete slab. Unfortunately the work on the baseball diamond may not be feasible in the near future due to lack of funding. The residents agreed to work with Mr Ayshford to make improvements within City standards and requirements.

The residents were encouraged to participate in the Adopt-A-Park program. Mr Ayshford explained how the program works and the residents in attendance seemed to think this was a good idea for them.

Mr Hoffman made a motion to increase the maintenance of Deer Haven Park to the previous standard of mowing the entire park each time it is mowed. Ms Harvey seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Council Report & Other Business

Staff and the Parks Commission will continue discussions on the future direction of the City's Parks and projects with the City Council liaison Tim Harrington. The purpose of this discussion will be to formulate goals and objectives for the park development program and to update the commission on issues currently before the City Council.

Mr Harrington reported that the new dasher boards are up in the ice arena and look good. A decision was made on the new management for the arena as well. A new business, Brown-Wilbert is planning to purchase land at the southeast corner of Hwy 65 and 221st Ave. They sell septic tanks and burial vaults.

Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve

The Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve (CCESR) is a University of Minnesota biological field station with many ecosystems and species found throughout the forests and grasslands of North America.

Members of the Park Commission were given a tour of three experimental areas in the CCESR by Clarence Lehman and other members of the staff including Troy Mielke, Jim Krueger, and Kally Worm.

The first was the BAC (biodiversity and climate) experiment which examines the interactive effects of global warming and biodiversity on prairie ecosystems. Members also viewed experiments in Fire Frequency: a study of fire and fire suppression in forest ecosystems and the longest running experiment on the effects of increased CO₂ exposure.

Adjournment

Mr Hoffman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Ms Harvey seconded the motion; all in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:
Susan Lori Irons
Recording Secretary