

EAST BETHEL PARK COMMISSION MEETING

January 13, 2016

The commission met at 6:30 pm at the East Bethel City Hall for the regular monthly meeting.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Nate Ayshford, Public Works Manager
 Tom Ronning, City Council Liaison

- Adopt Agenda **Mr. Hoffman moved and Mr. Zimmermann seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.**
- Approve Minutes **Mr. Zimmermann moved and Mr. Hoffman seconded to approve the October 14, 2015 minutes as written. Motion carried.**
- Park Financial Information Mr. Ayshford reported a Park Acquisition and Development Fund balance of \$30,121.11, and a Park Capital Fund balance of \$125,001.03 as of 12/31/15. The Public Works – Park Maintenance final balance was 94% of the total budget.
- 2016 Ballfield Requests Soderville/Blaine Athletic Association submitted a request for reserving fields 1-8 at Booster West and East from April 18 to July 21 four nights a week (M-Th). Weekend use would be limited to six Fridays and three Saturdays at Booster West.
- St. Francis Youth Baseball Association (SFYBA) submitted an application to reserve Booster West #1 with electricity for June 4 & 5. Mr. Hoffman noted that this organization has not requested electricity in the past. City staff will check with SFYBA for clarification on the need for electricity.
- Mr. Hoffman moved and Ms. Harvey seconded to approve the 2016 ballfield request from SBAA and the application from SFYBA as submitted.** In the past, the City has given SBAA a 20% discount based on the number of players from East Bethel. The commission consensus was to apply the 20% discount in 2016. **Motion carried.**
- Shade Tree Ordinance As part of the requirements for applying for the annual Tree City USA award, the DNR and Arbor Day Council would like the City to update a couple key components to the tree preservation ordinance, to have a stand-alone actual Shade Tree Ordinance, and to designate the Park Commission as the Tree Board. The Shade Tree Ordinance would be a new chapter to the City Code. Mr. Ayshford recommended to go with a general Shade Tree Ordinance to start and will draft a general ordinance which will meet the requirements for the Tree City USA award.

Mr. Ayshford further recommended the Park Commission be designated as the Tree Board.

Parks, Trails,
Open Space
Comp Plan

Mr. Ayshford presented an updated map showing potential trail connection corridors and potential future park locations for discussion and review. Commissioners discussed the location of the proposed trails, type of trail, and whether there is city property available for the trails.

For the record, Ms. Harvey asked if the City Council has any plans to return the trail money that was used to pay down the bond payment to the Park budget. Mr. Ronning said he would address this question at the next council meeting.

Mr. Langmade gets calls from people who would like to be able to ride their bikes to Fish Lake and then use the pavilion.

Discussed needing to decide on a trail segment to get started; the John Anderson segment was suggested as a good starting trail along with the planned and designed trail from Booster Park to the Fish Lake Park. Both of these trails would be multi use trails with an asphalt surface.

Sayer Payne, 2557 225th Ave NE, who lives at the corner of 225th and Xylite spoke against having a trail put through the “backyards” of neighboring homeowners. He is in favor of trails, however, he does not believe it's a good choice on the City's part to put trails in where residents are opposed to having public access trails. Mr. Payne would like to see the City adopt a better model for this specific trail segment and suggested 222nd as a better option for the trail proposed north of Booster Park.

The City tries to plan for trails in developments prior to houses being built. Unfortunately, it is harder to install a trail where residential areas are already established.

Mr. Ayshford will include the new trail segment north of Booster Park for capital improvement planning for 2016.

The commissioners expressed their disappointment in having half of the Park budget used to pay down the bond payment with no money being put back into the budget. Commissioners would like the Park budget increased.

Council
Report &
Other
Business

Mr. Ronning reported an administrative appeal for the sale of a home. The septic tank inspection came back non-compliant; City Council was unable to help.

MnDOT brought a proposed superstreet design for Hwy 65 before the Road Commission. A brief overview of the superstreet was reviewed.

There are two openings on the Road Commission.

Currently, the Met Council proposed Comp Plan reads 1 home/10 acres. City staff met with Met Council and now has a Letter of Understanding stating that the City of East Bethel can go with 1 home/2.5 acres, instead of 10 acres as written.

Meeting video indexing is available on the City website, along with agendas and minutes for all council and commission meetings.

Ingress and egress on 187th has been discussed. The State is requesting traffic be rerouted. Council passed a resolution that a new road be installed from 187th north to Viking Blvd. The road will be located behind Our Saviour's Church. The project be funded through the Mutual Aid Program and with some HRA balance to cover the cost for the new road.

The Verizon tower is out for bid, no results have been received. A tower is expected to be installed next to the public works building within the couple months.

Adjourn

Mr. Hoffman moved and Mr. Zimmerman seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Gessner
Recording Secretary
Submitted 1/17/16