

the number of East Bethel members. If the number of East Bethel members is high, then probably yes. However, if the number is low, then most likely no. Mr. Ayshford asked Mr. Skrypek to provide a membership number count. Mr. Ayshford stated that the Park Commission is trying to figure out if it should keep the current soccer fields at Booster Park for soccer or convert them into baseball fields.

SBA has approximately 950-1,000 players aged 13-19 years, with 40% being from East Bethel. Unfortunately, SBA can only carry five teams, due to the lack of full-size ballfields. More teams could be added if more full-size fields were available. There are plenty of smaller youth-sized fields available to use. Mr. Latawiec supposed smaller fields could be used for fast pitch teams. SBA does partner with cities on field rental. One request is to have roofs on the dugouts to provide shade for the players. Batting cages are also great to have available. Ms. Lachinski noted that the ice arena has batting cages available for use during the hockey off season and that turf is also used on the floor. Mr. Latawiec was unaware of those batting cages and would definitely consider using them.

Mr. Skrypek voiced a definite interest in using the turfed ice arena for soccer.

Mr. Latawiec said SBA would be quite willing to help build a full-sized baseball field with a partner. It has done a 50/50 partnership with Ham Lake and would probably do the same with East Bethel. One full-sized field could mean adding an additional three to four teams.

Chair Langmade asked that the requirement to remove field directions signage, balloons, etc. be added to the rental agreement; too many times these things are left behind for the city to clean up. Mr. Ayshford will have this added to the rental agreement.

6.0 Sidewalk and Trail Ordinance for New Developments

The current City Code requires the installation of a trail or sidewalk on all streets in new subdivisions that are zoned RR, R-1, R-2 and all commercial and industrial districts and was adopted in 2007. Since that time, the City has not had any new subdivisions submitted that required the trails or sidewalks. The Community Development Department is currently working with interested parties looking to begin developing new housing subdivisions.

Staff is seeking guidance on balancing pedestrian friendly neighborhoods with possibly deterring the attractiveness of new development associated with the additional cost and developable land dedicated for trails and sidewalks. In Rural residential subdivisions where the lot sizes are 2½ acres or larger, it may not make sense to require sidewalks or trails unless they are part of a regional system. A suggested change to the code may be to require trails and sidewalks on a case by case basis in Rural Residential subdivisions where lot sizes are 2 ½ acres or larger. Consideration for trails and sidewalks should be related to the overall Comprehensive Plan and regional trail system.

Staff is asking for a recommendation on whether the current code is sufficient or requires any changes.

The reasons for the Code amendment review is to lower costs to developers and maintenance costs; trails are bituminous and sidewalks are cement. It was clarified that R1 is 2.5 acres high density and RR is rural residential. Ms. Harvey is against amending the City Code. With trails being popular, it is best to keep this requirement in the Code. Mr. Hoffman agreed that it is good to have it in the Code for the future density development. Mr. Ayshford noted that pushback is coming from developers regarding cost and cutting into lot space. **Ms. Harvey moved and Mr. Hoffman seconded to recommend leaving Section 66-165 of the City Code as it is written.** Ms. Harvey said that a lot of thought and time was put into this Code. Ms. Jefferson noted that a developer could always ask for a variance to the Code. Mr. Zimmerman clarified if it is a busy street it would need a sidewalk. However, if it is RR and isn't a busy road, could less money be taken for connecting the large lots, with the taken money then used to connect one neighborhood to another area? Would this help to encourage development in East Bethel? Park dedication fees were revised to encourage development mainly for commercial development, not as much for residential development; the change was mainly for high density development and commercial, not for RR. **Motion carried 6-1. Mr. Zimmerman opposed.**

7.0 Park Sign
at Whispering
Aspen
Community
Center

The Whispering Aspen Community Center is a hall available for rent in the Whispering Aspen development located just west of TH 65 and 241st Ave. Currently the facility does not have any identifying signs other than a sales office sign for BDM Construction which has an office in the facility. Numerous requests for a sign at the community center have arisen from renters and their guests trying to identify the unmarked facility.

Over the past few years, the City has begun installing uniform signs at city parks. The Park Commission drafted a sign standard to be used on these signs. To date, all of the signs have been constructed and installed by Eagle Scout candidates with volunteered time and donated labor and materials. At this time, the City does not have any interested volunteers or groups looking for park projects.

With the lack of any interested volunteer groups, staff is asking the Park Commission if a sign should be installed sooner. A simple sign similar to our existing park signs would not exceed \$500. A more elaborate sign could also be used if the City desired. Funding for the possible sign would be provided from the Park Capital budget.

Mr. Ayshford clarified that the sign would be at the building. Both Mr. Hoffman and Ms. Lachinski will check with scouting groups to see if an Eagle Scout is looking for a project. It is preferred to have all the signs of the same style. If the City pays for the sign, Mr. Hoffman would like the sign to be similar to other city building signs. **Mr. Hoffman moved and Ms. Harvey seconded to table this item to the next meeting, at which time the scouting groups should have replied. Motion carried.** Mr. Ayshford will provide city building sign costs for the next meeting.

8.0 2017-2021 Parks Capital Improvement Plan The Parks Commission prepares a Capital Improvement Plan annually which updates projected projects, evaluates priorities, and establishes funding for these works for the coming year and for each of the subsequent years for a five year period. This plan is presented to City Council for its approval and use for preparing the coming year's budget.

The Commission is asked to discuss those projects that are listed for 2016 and determine if they need to stay in their current funding year or be rearranged to reflect any changes in the park priorities. Other projects can be added and existing ones can be deleted if there is a need for restructuring the schedule.

Mr. Ayshford noted that the 2017 Plan will be fixed once it is given to City Council, however, other years' items could be moved around.

For 2017, \$25,000 has been marked for skateboard equipment upgrades at Booster West. The equipment is usable and meets safety specs and is not in urgent need of upgrading. The initial thought was to replace the equipment, but \$25,000 will cover only upgrade costs. The Park Acquisition and Development fund has \$30,000 in it and the Capital Fund has \$200,000 which is used for soccer fields, baseball fields, playground equipment, etc.

Mr. Hoffman visited moving this \$25,000 to 2018 when Bonde Park soccer/lacrosse field irrigation is scheduled. If the \$25,000 is not used in 2017, it will remain in the Park Acquisition and Development Fund. The CST property will not generate park dedication fees since it won't be platted and only a few houses have been built to increase this fund. The CIP currently shows a \$5,000 increase from the City fund transfer each year to the Park Capital Fund.

The soccer field at Booster Park could be converted into a baseball field and the baseball fields at Bonde Park converted into soccer fields, however, it could be expensive putting a well in at Bonde Park for irrigation purposes. Mr. Hoffman would like to have 300 requested parking spaces available for soccer use at Bonde Park. Mr. Skrypek noted that it is ideal to have a path around the soccer fields for parents to walk. Based on the park layout presented on screen, he would prefer to have as much greenspace as possible to move fields around due to wear and tear.

Mr. Zimmerman moved and Mr. Hoffman seconded to approve the draft Park Capital Improvement Plan as written. Motion carried.

9.0 Council Report and Other Business Mr. Ronning reported:
 The HRA met on April 6 and the next meeting will be in July. Discussions are about the use of HRA funds. Council discussed using these funds for a service road at Classic Park. Council also talked about an HRA levy. Council discussed a possible property tax increase of 0.0031%.
 CST required submissions were incomplete as of the April 6 Council meeting. Handicap doors and a back-up generator have been installed at City Hall.

Verizon telephone tower is complete.

City engineer gave a presentation of the water tiers used by the city and residents.

Mr. Ayshford added:

Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for April 19 at 6:00 pm at the Senior Center. April 23 is Arbor Day with tree planting at 10:00am at Booster East Park and Recycling Day.

Mr. Ayshford and Jack Davis met with the DNR and Rep. Hackbarth regarding the Sandhill Crane natural area. It appears this land will be transferred from school trust land to State forest land. Being State forest land it will still have to be managed for timber production, so there may be some future tree cutting, but not clear cutting. There still may be a meeting to discuss forest plans.

10.0 Adjourn **Mr. Hoffman moved and Ms. Jefferson seconded to adjourn at 7:57 pm. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Gessner, Recording Secretary
Submitted 4/17/16