

EAST BETHEL PARK COMMISSION MEETING

October 11, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kenneth Langmade, Chair      Bill Zimmermann      Bonnie Harvey  
Denise Lachinski      Tim Hoffman

ABSENT: Stacy Voelker      Sue Jefferson

ALSO PRESENT: Nate Ayshford, Public Works Manager  
Randy Plaisance, City Council Liaison

1. Call to Order      Chair Langmade called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Adopt Agenda      **Mr. Zimmermann moved and Mr. Hoffman seconded to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

3. Approve Minutes      **Ms. Lachinski moved and Mr. Zimmermann seconded to approve the September 13, 2017 minutes as written. Motion carried.**

4. Park Financial Information      Mr. Ayshford reported there are no changes to the Park Capital Fund. He is waiting for ballfield invoices. The ballfield is expected to be ready for play in 2019. The Park Maintenance Fund is on par.

**Mr. Hoffman moved and Mr. Zimmermann seconded to accept the Park Financial Information as presented. Motion carried.**

5. 2040 Comp Plan - Park, Trail, and Open Space Plan      As part of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan update, the City of East Bethel is required to address regional and local park systems. The Regional Parks System primarily consists of lands located in high-quality natural resource settings that are contiguous to lakes, rivers, or other water bodies. Natural resource restoration and protection is a key objective. The Regional Parks System contains large areas of land that often extend into multiple communities. Federal and state recreation and open space lands generally serve similar recreational needs as the Regional Parks System. East Bethel's Comprehensive Plan update should identify, map, and plan for the Regional Parks System components, as well as federal and state recreation and open space lands that are in our community.

Local recreational open space facilities are an important component of the overall outdoor recreation system in the region. Local parks are often more intensely developed than regional parks and provide facilities for active recreation such as playgrounds, athletic fields, sport courts, and aquatic centers. Local parks are designed to serve a neighborhood or community and are frequently located in residential areas. Under the 2040 Comp Plan update, the City of East Bethel will need to: 1) Describe and map existing and proposed local parks, trails, and recreation facilities, and 2) Include a capital improvement program for parks and open space facilities as part of an implementation program.

At the September 13, 2017 Park Commission meeting, the commission discussed and made recommended changes that should be reflected in the updated map. Commissioners reviewed the updated map.

**Mr. Zimmermann moved and Mr. Hoffman seconded to recommend approval of the Park, Trails, and Open Space Plan Map to be used in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.** Mr. Ayshford verified that the map will be reviewed again in 10 years. **Motion carried.**

6. City Hall Mural Proposal - Update

The City of East Bethel has received a proposal from a local artist, Glenn Terry, to paint a mural on the north side of City Hall. Mr. Terry has painted murals at the Cedar Creek Ecosystem and Scientific Reserve, downtown Isanti, and other buildings around the Twin Cities. The proposed mural would encompass the north and north-east walls including behind the mechanical equipment with a continuous landscape scene. The paint would be acrylic latex enamel.

The proposed project will take 3 to 4 weeks with a cost of \$3,000. Funding for the project could come from the Park Maintenance Budget, Park Capital Fund, and/or Building Capital Fund.

The Park Commission had discussed this item at the August 9th, 2017 meeting and requested an example of what would be painted. Mr. Terry submitted a sketch and had more examples available at the meeting. The sketch that Mr. Terry presented is meant to reflect the vibrancy of East Bethel; it will be like what can be seen when walking in Cedar Creek. Mr. Terry is asking \$3,000, which is half or less of his usual commission for this type of mural. In 2009, Mr. Terry painted a mural in the Minneapolis Greenway which took 3½ months to paint. He knows what is expected and what materials to use for this type of job. The paints he uses will last for decades, due to the northern exposure of the mural. Weather permitting, Mr. Terry will do the painting composition this fall.

**Ms. Lachinski moved and Chair Langmade seconded to recommend approval for Mr. Terry to paint a continuous landscape scene mural on the north and north-east walls of City Hall, including behind the mechanical equipment.** Mr. Hoffman asked that the motion be amended to include that the funds used to pay for the mural come out of the Building Capital Fund, as opposed to any park fund. **Ms. Lachinski moved and Chair Langmade seconded to amend the previous motion to include that the funds used to pay for the mural come out of the Building Capital Fund, as opposed to any park fund. Motion carried.** This item is expected to be on the October 18<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

7. Park Advertising

The City has received a request from a local youth sports organization to hang banners on the outfield fence in Booster West. Staff is seeking direction from the Park Commission as to if a fee should be charged for this advertising. Staff have discussed this issue internally and with other cities and offer up some of the following possibilities:

- 1) Charge a set fee for all advertising;
- 2) Charge no fee for non-profits and youth sports organizations, fee for other groups/advertisers;
- 3) Assign one sports organization in charge of advertising with any profits raised to be used for facilities improvements; or
- 4) Charge no fee.

Ms. Lachinski researched this item at length previously, but not much information was available from other cities. Signs/banners to be used would need to be preapproved by the Commission. It was asked who would be responsible for replacing the signs/banners if

they are damaged? Also, what fund would the monies be put into and/or what would the money be used toward. It was suggested the money go toward ballfield improvements. From the information Mr. Ayshford gathered, he said fees varied from \$240-\$1,000. The ice arena has a policy with set fees. The money received from signage at the arena goes toward arena costs. The commission is leaning toward going with canvas or vinyl banners.

Mr. Hoffman likes a hybrid of choices 2 and 3 that were offered as possibilities. SBAA and SFYB could put up signage for free and others would be charged for a standard size and style sign/banner.

Ms. Lachinski noted that some cities have advertising information on the websites, plus city staff markets to businesses to advertise. She suggested the City run the advertising program.

Mr. Ayshford will draft an ordinance/policy for the Commission to review and approve at a future meeting. He will also check on disallowing alcohol and/or tobacco advertising on the signage.

8. Portable  
Bathrooms  
Request –  
Undeveloped  
Coon Lake  
Property

The Coon Lake Improvement Association has approached the City of East Bethel with a proposal to place one or two portable toilets on the City property adjacent to the portion of Coon Lake commonly referred to as the “Sand Bar”.

According to CLIA, “this is a popular gathering place for boaters during the summer. On a given weekend there can be 60 to 80 people using this area. Boaters consist of both lake residents and nonresidents. This area is popular because of its beautiful sand beach and its private tree-lined shore. This is a great place to meet friends, swim, barbecue, and has easy parking for your boat. With the number of people using this area we feel some type of bathroom is desperately needed!”

The CLIA proposal includes the following:

1. The city work with their association to pick a lot owned by the city to house 1 or 2 portable toilets.
2. The city install a gravel road so the toilets can be dropped off near the shoreline and serviced.
3. CLIA will be responsible for the payment and servicing of the toilets - installed approximately 3 months per year that they would be there.

The wooded area has no path or road. The soils are seasonably wet in this area, but should be able to support a gravel maintenance road. Ms. Harvey said to make sure this area isn't protected for blanding turtles. Will there be a liability for toilets near a swimming area? If a road is put in, people will probably use it as a public access road. What about permission from the DNR? Ms. Lachinski said if a road is installed, it needs to be located on the edge of the property so that people don't go through the woods. Mr. Ayshford gave a cost estimate of \$2,000 for clearing and a temporary access road. Even though this portable bathroom will be paid for by CLIA, it will be located on City property. Mr. Ayshford suggested a chain could be put across the road to prevent the public from using it and that maintenance would have a key for access.

**Ms. Harvey moved and Mr. Hoffman seconded to table this item until more information is gathered on the habitat and liability issues. Motion carried.** Ms. Harvey will talk with CLIA to gather more information.

9. Council Report and 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 Randy Plaisance. 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. Plaisance reported:

- Council has been having a lot of dog hearings over various issues. Dog owners need to be responsible for their animals.
- TIF 1-2 and TIF 1-3 have both been approved.
- Eldon Holmes has resigned from the Planning Commission; a position is open.
- Al Thunberg has resigned from the Roads Commission; a position is open.
- The Fire Department open house was well attended. Attractions were the Life Link helicopter, Sheriff Department's drone, and a chili contest - 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place were won by Lionesses.
- The Chamber of Commerce Sunrise Breakfast is October 12th from 7:30-9:30 am at Route 65.

Mr. Ayshford shared the drone video of East Bethel that was commissioned by the Chamber of Commerce for use at the MNCAR Expo and other venues.

There will be no November meeting unless something major comes up.

7.0 Adjourn      **Ms. Harvey moved and Mr. Hoffman seconded to adjourn at 7:25 pm. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Gessner, Recording Secretary  
Submitted 10/15/17