

Farmington Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Minutes from the Regular Meeting on November 9, 2011

Members Present: Charlie Weber, David McMillen, Mike Haley and Dawn Johnson

Members Absent: Adam Lares

Other's Present: Randy Distad, Parks and Recreation Director.

I. Call To Order

Chair McMillen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Quorum was present.

II. Approval of November 9, 2011 Meeting Agenda

Moved by Johnson and seconded by Lares to approve the meeting agenda as amended to move Veteran's Memorial item from the Discussion area of the agenda to Old Business under Letter B of the agenda. All persons in favor (APIF). Motion carried.

III. Approval of September 14 and October 12, 2011 Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Weber and seconded by Haley to approve the September 14, 2011 meeting minutes. Voting in favor: McMillen, Haley and Weber. Voting against: None. Abstaining from the vote: Johnson. Motion carried.

Moved by Weber and seconded by Johnson to approve the October 12, 2011 meeting minutes. Voting in favor: Weber and Johnson. Voting against: None. Abstaining: Haley and McMillen. Motion carried.

IV. Presentation

There were no presentations.

VI. Old Business

A. Commission Member's Term Expiring

Distad shared that the only Commission member's term expiring in 2012 is David McMillen. McMillen stated that he was planning on applying to be reappointed by the City Council to the Commission for another three year term. Distad also shared that other Commission member's terms will expire in the following years: in 2013 Johnson and Weber and in 2014 Lares and Haley.

B. Veteran's Memorial

Distad shared the latest concept plan of the memorial. He also provided a summary of the November 7th City Council meeting where the Veteran's Memorial Committee identified several items in the memorial they wanted the City to provide. These included:

- The land in Rambling River Park where the memorial will be constructed
- Two light poles
- The connecting trail from CSAH 50 to the existing parking lot in Rambling River Park
- Electrical supply to the memorial site in Rambling River Park
- Future picnic shelter

Distad shared that the City Council reviewed these requests and voted to allow the Veteran's Memorial to be constructed in Rambling River Park and to pay for the connecting trail. However, the City Council sent back to the Commission the requests to have the City pay for the light poles and electricity to the site in order to see if the Commission was supportive of spending the funds from the Park Improvement Fund for these two improvements.

Distad informed Commission members that the estimated range in costs of these improvements were as follows:

- Connecting trail \$5,000-\$7,000
- Two light poles \$10,000
- Electricity \$35,000-\$40,000 which included cost of Xcel running electricity underground to a new service site south of the shelter, cost of having a commercial electrician install a new service box in the park that would also be used to provide new electrical service to the existing picnic shelter and tennis court lights and the cost of running electricity underground from the new service box to the memorial site and then install a new service box for the electricity used in the memorial (two flood lights for the flag poles, ground fault interrupter outlet, and the

relay and photocells for the light poles), which the new service box would also serve the new picnic shelter when it was constructed along with a fountain if it is eventually constructed

McMillen stated that he felt the City should cover the cost of upgrading the electrical service that would provide electricity to the picnic shelter and tennis court lights.

Haley stated that he felt there was lots of positive reaction to the project and the City Council wants to make it work. He felt that the costs associated with the memorial should be paid for by the memorial committee. He also felt the fundraising would be successful and the amount identified to be raised for the memorial would be met.

Johnson felt that parks serve different populations and the City provides facilities for different needs like the outdoor pool, outdoor skating rinks, Depot Way Arts Park and the Arena. She felt the City should pay for some of the improvements identified by the Veteran's Memorial Committee that the City Council did not approve but was looking for a recommendation from the Commission on.

Weber stated that he felt the Veteran's Memorial Committee should be funding the memorial and that the City should not spend money from the Park Improvement Fund because the City has a lot of other park projects that still need to be completed.

Moved by Haley and seconded by Weber to recommend to the City Council to approve the following:

- The City should pay for the electrical work associated with upgrading the existing service to the tennis courts and existing picnic shelter
- The City should not cover the cost of the two new light poles
- The City should not cover the cost of running electrical supply to the memorial site
- The City should allow the Veteran's Memorial Committee to have access to the new service box in Rambling River Park if want this as their source for electrical supply
- The City should allow the Veteran's Memorial Committee to use another source for their electrical needs if they are able to find another electrical source

Voting in favor: Haley, Weber and McMillen. Voting against: Johnson. Motion carried by a 3-1 vote.

VII. New Business

A. Review Agenda for Meeting with Empire Township's Park and Recreation Commission

Commission members reviewed the agenda that was created for the meeting that will occur at 7:00 p.m. tonight at City Hall with Empire Township's Parks and Recreation Commission. Commission members agreed with the agenda items set for the meeting. Distad stated the intent of the meeting was to continue to keep the lines of communication open between the City and the Township related to Parks and Recreation. He felt there has been partnerships developed in the past between the two entities and that there are future opportunities for partnerships to be developed as well but we don't know what these opportunities are unless the two entities communicate with each other.

B. 2012 Work Plan Discussion

Distad reviewed the 2011 Work Plan with Commission members and items that have been completed were identified. All but one of the work plan items has been completed once the meeting with Empire Township occurs this evening. Distad asked Commission members for ideas to be included in the 2012 work plan. The following items were identified for consideration to be included in the 2012 Work Plan:

Exploring possible partnerships with other entities including Empire Township
Annual meeting with Empire Township
City Council workshop and park tour
Presentations from youth sports organizations
Review of encroachments that homeowners have created on park land

VII. Discussion Items

A. 2012 Budget Update

Distad shared information about the two public open houses that have occurred on the 2012 budget. He also informed Commission members about the last public open house meeting occurring on November 15th. The current proposed 2012 budget includes \$20,000 for building maintenance, \$15,000 for trail maintenance and \$25,000 for park re-development.

He shared that due to a larger than anticipated fiscal disparity money being received by the City in 2012, the City Council is looking to use some of the fiscal disparities money to eliminate the deficit in the Economic Development Authorities budget as well as the deficit that currently exists in the Recreation Operating Fund due to the renovation project that occurred at the Rambling River Center. The Rambling River Center and Outdoor Pool budgets are being proposed to be brought back into the General Fund rather than being in the Recreation Operating Fund due to the amount of transfers that are made to cover the operating deficits especially at the Rambling River Center.

B. 2012 Fees and Charges Update

Distad shared that the City Council approved the recommended revisions to the Parks and Recreation Department fee schedule. This will mean the Rambling River Center membership rate will go from \$20 per year to \$25 per year but there will no longer be a non-resident rate for membership. Staff will be working in 2012 to increase the number of memberships due to the restructuring of the membership rate. He also shared there was some discussion by Council members about trying to get user groups to pay additional money at the Arena in order to reduce the deficit and fund long-term capital projects.

VIII. Commission Roundtable

Weber: Didn't have anything to share.

Johnson: Didn't have anything to share.

Haley: Didn't have anything to share.

McMillen: Thanked Rambling River Center staff for the work they did with the Waffle Breakfast and Silent Auction fundraiser. He felt this year there were more activities offered and having it on a Saturday rather than a Sunday seemed to bring more people to the fundraiser. Informed everyone that there will be a program called Trains and Treats on Saturday, November 26th at the Rambling River Center and invited everyone to attend. It will feature model train displays and the opportunity for participants to make treats out of twinkies.

IX. Staff Report

Distad provided updates on the following items to Commission members:

1. Provided an update on the projects that have been completed including:

- All City buildings lighting is being inspected and light bulbs are being replaced.
- Window cleaning has occurred except at the Police Station. This has not been done for more than a year.
- A couple of promotions and a new hire have occurred and as a result the Department has all funded position filled. As a result of this, the City now has a full-time staff member dedicated just to building maintenance, which that City has never had before.

X. December 14, 2011 Meeting Agenda Items

The following items were identified by Commission members for possible agenda items for the December 14, 2011 meeting:

1. Empire Township Meeting Review
2. Review Park and Recreation Chapter Amendments as part of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update
3. 2012 Work Plan
4. 2012 Budget Update

Distad also asked if the Commission would like to continue the tradition of making the December meeting a pot luck meeting where snacks and other food items are brought in by each member. Commission by consensus said they would like to continue this tradition. Distad will coordinate the food items to be brought by each Commission member.

XI. Adjournment

Moved by Haley and seconded by Weber to adjourn the meeting. APIF. Motion carried. Adjournment was at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Distad
Parks and Recreation Director and Recording Secretary