

PARKS COMMISSION
Thursday, March 5, 2015
City Hall ~ Room 24
5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Commission Members: Diane Davison, Dory Waxman, Steve Morgenstein, Michael Mertaugh, Cynthia Loebenstein, Carol Hutchins, Meri Lowery, Travis Wagner, Jeff Scher, Jaime Parker
City Staff: Councilor Jon Hinck, Troy Moon, Melissa Graffam, Mike Bobinsky, Rick Knowland

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes February 2015

Motion made by Cynthia Loebenstein to accept the meeting minutes. Seconded by Dory Waxman.
Motion passed 10-0.

Heseltine Park

Aaron Brady, representing the Friends of Heseltine Park; along with Emily Broce and Tim Witherby talked to the Commission regarding some things that they would like to have changed/upgraded at the park.

The things that they requested was a new park sign. The one that they currently have, Haseltine is spelled wrong. The requested a trash can and a new or repaired picnic table (the current one has expletives on it). They also asked if it was possible to have water at the park so that they could water the flower garden. Another item they would like to see is additional swings (for older children).

It was also discussed about the structure that Unitil places in the park in the winter. In the area that it gets places, it also destroys the flower bed. It was discussed that the friends group, along with city staff, talk to Unitil about working with the friends group to help with replacing the flower bed and possibly other landscaping needs.

Communications/Updates

Community Garden/Eastern Promenade- Cultivating Community received a \$15,000 grant. This will help with the gardens. The community garden on the Eastern Prom is still on plan to plant this spring.

Deering Oaks Pond- Staff said that they are hoping to start working on the ravine of the pond later in the year (November/December). Actual work on the pond would be in 2016.

Evergreen Cemetery Wall- Work has been going slow due to the weather. The goal is to have it finished by Memorial Day.

Western Prom Wall- Work has been going slow due to the weather. Work should be completed in late spring.

Update on Winter Activities – The Recreation Department purchased a Polaris 1000 with a groomer. This helped clear the ice skating ponds and have allowed them to groom cross-country ski tracks at Deering Oaks Park. Camp Ketcha this winter rented out hockey and ice skates at Payson Park. This program was a great success.

Fitzpatrick Field Project – The grass carpet pads will go down in the spring. The track will be done afterward.

Payson Park, Title IX project – The City was in violation of Title IX (girl's equality for sports) at Payson Park. They are updating the softball field at that park with a new scoreboard, bleachers, and batting cages. Next year they will be putting in bathrooms and a concession stand.

Footgolf, Curling and Squash – Riverside Golf Course will have footgolf on Saturday and Sundays in the spring during the slow golfing times. Curling will be starting at the Ice Arena. Rec Department is looking to partnership with Bayside Bowl to get the recreation children to participate in squash.

Unfinished Business

CIP Update- Committee looked over the city's proposed CIP budget.

Trust for Public Land Update – The Steering and Stakeholder committees met for the first time on March 4, 2015. The agenda of the meeting was to review what has occurred so far. They will continue to meet now until July. The Commission will be updated when they have meetings.

Administrative Tasks – The Commission created subcommittees to look into the following ideas. Parks Commission's role in raising funds subcommittee will be Dory Waxman, Cynthia Loebenstein, Sally DeLuca and Diane Davison.

Reviewing and adopt rules (implementation of rules, electing officers); along with working on the Annual Report will be Travis Wagner, Steve Morgenstein, Michael Mertaugh, Jaime Parker, Troy Moon and Sally DeLuca.