

WEST DES MOINES PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD PROCEEDINGS
Thursday, March 15, 2018

The meeting of the West Des Moines Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 5:31 p.m. by Chair Hrdlicka.

Commission	Heather Schebel <i>Vice Chair</i>	Joe Hrdlicka <i>Chair</i>	Forrest Ridgway	Rick Swalwell	Aaron Sewell <i>Secretary</i>
Present	X	X	X	X-5:35	

Staff	Sally Orgies <i>Director of Parks & Recreation</i>	Dave Sadler <i>Superintendent of Parks</i>	Anna Poss <i>Administrative Secretary</i>		
Present	X	X	X		

Council	Russ Trimble <i>Council Liaison</i>				
Present	X- 6:15				

On Item 1. Approval of Agenda

Schebel moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ridgway seconded. Motion carried, 3 yes.

On Item 2. Citizen Forum

No items.

On Item 3. Approval of Minutes of February 15, 2018 Meeting

Schebel moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ridgway seconded. Motion carried, 4 yes.

On Item 4. Old Business

A. Committee/Liaison Appointments

1. Ridgway proposed officers for the Board as follows:
 - a. Chair – Joe Hrdlicka
 - b. Vice Chair – Heather Schebel
 - c. Secretary – Aaron Sewell

Hrdlicka moved to maintain the Facilities Committee with Ridgway and Schebel serving, and also to maintain the Des Moines Trails and Greenways liaison as Sewell.

Ridgway moved to elect officers as proposed. Sewell seconded. Motion carried, 4 yes.

New Business

On Item 5A. Public Hearings

A. Naming of Special Use Facility – Nellie Phenix Legacy Commons

1. Motion – Approval of Recommendation to City Council.

Hrdlicka inquired when the notice was published and Orgies responded March 9, 2018 in the Des Moines Register. Hrdlicka asked if staff had received any written comments and Orgies responded that none had been received. Hrdlicka asked if there were any verbal comments from the public on this hearing. Hearing none, Hrdlicka declared the public hearing closed and opened up discussion among the members of the Board. Schebel shared that the neighborhood association had been active with this project. They took a

vote and proposed Nellie Phenix Legacy Commons as the name for the special use facility.

Ridgway moved to approve the recommendation to City Council for the Special Use Facility naming of Nellie Phenix Legacy Commons. Schebel seconded. Motion carried, 4 yes

B. Site Plan – Hidden Point Park

1. Motion – Approval of Recommendation to Planning and Zoning Commission.

Hrdlicka inquired when the notice was published and Ortgies responded March 9, 2018 in the Des Moines Register. Hrdlicka asked if staff had received any written comments and Ortgies responded none had been received. Hrdlicka asked if there were any verbal comments from the public on this hearing. Hearing none, Hrdlicka declared the public hearing closed and opened up discussion among the members of the Board. Ortgies shared there were approximately 20 people at the neighborhood meeting, and they were generally in support of the park and gave good feedback. The only item that was not decided upon was a pedestrian connection to the south into the Pheasant Ridge neighborhood. The plan will show this preliminarily, but it will not be included on the final site plan until the neighbors have provided their input. Sadler shared that the meeting was positive and there was good dialogue surrounding the park plan.

Ridgway moved to approve the recommendation to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Schebel seconded. Motion carried, 4 yes.

On Item 6A. New Business

A. Annual Report – Cricket League of Iowa

Adarsh Eppili from Waukee updated the Board on the league's 2017 Cricket season. Eppili spoke on behalf of the league in sharing their interest to renew their lease with the City in 2020.

B. Discussion – Site Plan Concepts

1. Pinedale Park: Sadler shared that this area was unserved by parks up until Woodland West apartment complex completed a condominium conversion which triggered park land dedication. Sadler shared that it is a smaller site with plans for a sidewalk coming off of Woodland Avenue, a parking area, and a small shelter with a couple of benches. There will also be a sidewalk going to the north to a half-court basketball court. Staff will be removing old asphalt and adding new paving around the shelter along with two different age group playgrounds. The site plan is keeping all existing trees other than one evergreen. Staff has sent out approximately 300 notices to all residents in the area. Feedback from select neighborhood residents has been on the current functionality of the space and questions about what was to be expected in the future. Sadler added that other inquiries have come in, but nothing negative enough to warrant a neighborhood meeting similar to the one held for Whisper Point Park. Ridgway asked Sadler if this will be a park that the neighbors will feel welcome to use versus it feeling more like a park only for the condominiums. Sadler responded that based upon feedback, residents have expressed interest in the new park. Ridgway inquired about the demographics of the condominiums. Sadler did not know exactly but by observation he would estimate there's a fair share of young kids and families. Swalwell asked if there was an opening out of the park into the back yards in the area and Sadler responded there is a short chain link fence between the park and neighboring properties. Future plans include signage to inform the public that it is a City owned park.

2. Florer Park: Sadler shared that Florer Park is an older park and it was dedicated to the City in 1963 by the Florer Family. Currently there is some undesirable usage of the park, mainly because of the isolated location of the shelter towards the top of the hill. The new site plan will include a sidewalk connection at the north end and an extensive clean-up of the park. Two members of the Florer family have been included in the planning process. The deed requires there to be a shelter in the park, so the shelter will be moved closer to the horseshoe court area along with a small paved area complete with a bench with a plaque to recognize the Florer family. At the south end of the park the removal of two horseshoe courts will allow a new shelter to be incorporated. The removal of the two horseshoe courts meets the approval of Leroy Law, the City's contact for horseshoes. Hrdlicka asked how often horseshoes are played, and Ortgies replied during the summer it is weekly. There are also several tournaments that include the Iowa Senior Games. Ridgway inquired about the budget for the project, and Sadler replied \$100,000- \$110,000. Due to the current open space zoning, the setback requirements the setback requirements for the proposed shelter cannot be met. This is the reason for going through a formal re-zoning process to change the zoning to residential. Schebel asked if the family knew about the re-zoning. Sadler said he wasn't sure as this just came up recently. Hrdlicka asked if the enhancements will promote any undesirable behavior and Ortgies replied that moving the shelter to a new location and providing more lighting will hopefully help to deter undesirable activity. Swalwell mentioned that lighting at the top of the hill may be a positive addition to the park.

Staff Reports

On Item 7A. Superintendent of Parks

Sadler stated that construction has begun on portable toilet enclosures at Raccoon River Park, and a new shelter will be added near the fishing pier. Valley View Aquatic Center sandblasting and painting is almost finished. Woodland Hills Park loop trail, along with the basketball and tennis courts is out for bidding. There will be concrete trail renovations specifically along Westtown Parkway to Jordan Creek Parkway, then along 60th Street along, and Westtown Parkway to University. Sadler has been working with Engineering Services on park shelter, restrooms, and miscellaneous improvements in 17 different parks. The north pedestrian bridge at Pearson Park will be replaced. Seasonal Park attendants will be starting April 9th. Restroom and water startups are tentatively set for April 15th. Earth Day is April 21st, and there will be an event on the City Hall campus complete with grazing goats. The Shade Crusade tree pickup is April 28th. Residents have the opportunity to purchase trees at a discounted rate with the City providing 460 native trees for \$30 each. Ortgies stated that the West Des Moines Rotary Club is donating \$1,500 towards the Shade Crusade which is enough to purchase 50 trees to be planted on public property. Hrdlicka stated that he heard from a constituent and there is some debris on the east side of the trail entrance at Raccoon River Park. Sadler responded that he would have staff take a look and clean up what they can.

On Item 7B. Director of Parks and Recreation

Ortgies shared staff is overcoming the news of the LOSST election last week and is still forging ahead with the Five Waters Project. It may not happen as quickly as hoped but it is still a priority. Superintendent of Recreation interviews are scheduled for next Thursday and Friday. There were 68 total applicants and eight people are being interviewed in the first round. Seasonal hiring is moving along steadily, and the Department is still looking for lifeguards. There are currently 48 applicants, which is more than last year at this time. Brewick is going to talk to PE classes at various schools to help spread the word. Ortgies shared that staff has a temporary art sculpture planned to go in along Jordan Creek trail west of 50th Street. Hrdlicka followed up on the LOSST vote results by saying that the group

will pick up where they left off. Hrdlicka added that the state law is flawed and it's hard to get around. West Des Moines and Des Moines made a great effort to educate voters on the issue. Trimble added that completing these projects will be one of the most important things the Parks and Recreation Department does. Ortgies reminded everyone that the City will still be getting funds from the Dallas County LOSST vote which did pass. Hrdlicka said there was a success from this with the marketing materials prepared by Red Dot, and there's comfort in knowing that the citizens showed they do want these projects. Schebel added that the only bad feedback she received was that people couldn't trust how the money would be spent. Ridgway added that a bond referendum would take that concern away. Swalwell shared the benefit of a bond referendum is that if you get 60% of the vote, you can then get your projects done versus taking the time and effort to fundraise.

On Item 8. Other Matters

No items

On Item 9A: Receive, File and/or Refer:

February 20, 2018: Resolution – Order construction and Notice of Public Hearing on Plans, Specifications, Form of Contract, Estimate of Cost, and Direct Advertisement of Bids – Woodland Hills Park Loop Trail.

February 20, 2018: Resolution – Order construction and Notice of Public Hearing on Plans, Specifications, Form of Contract, Estimate of Cost, and Direct Advertisement of Bids – 2018 Concrete Trail Renovation Project.

On Item 9B: Update on 5 Waters Design Update:

No items.

Ridgway moved to adjourn. Schebel seconded. Motion carried, 4 yes. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Poss
Secretary

ATTEST:

Aaron Sewell
Advisory Board Secretary