

PARKS, RECREATION & FORESTRY BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, September 9, 2008
6:00 p.m.

- 1) Call to order by President Curt Stepanek.
- 2) Roll Call: Members Present: Curt Stepanek, Carmen Muenich, Audrey Stowell, Dale Berg, and Dennis Doughty. Absent: Lisa Bjork.
Staff present: Dick Hebert, Bill Faherty, Chuck Cyr, and Ade King.
- 3) Approval of July 8, 2008, Minutes: **Motion by Dennis Doughty, seconded by Carmen Muenich, all present voting aye, to approve minutes of the July 10, 2008, meeting.** It is noted that there was no quorum and therefore no meeting in August.
- 4) Personal Appearances: None.
- 5) Mark & Jill Johnson – Memorial Bench in Irvine Park. Mark Johnson gave a presentation on behalf of the memorial committee for Jason Zunker. The committee would like to place a bench near the duck pond in memory of Jason Zunker, the sheriff's deputy who was killed in the line of duty in January 2008. The proposed bench design was passed out. The proposed bench would be granite and donated by Johnson Monument. There was support for a bench in that location in memory of Deputy Zunker; however, there was concern by members of the Board with the style of the bench. Specifically, there is a desire for the bench to be similar to those already placed in the park. There was also a concern with setting a precedent of approving a non-conforming bench, especially considering a similar bench was previously denied. Suggestion made to purchase a bench consistent with the ones already in the park with the engraving or plaque with engraving as proposed.
- 6) Discuss/Consider moving Parks & Rec office from 21 E Grand. The proposed site would be for the Parks & Rec offices to move to City Hall. There is no pressure in terms of timing of the move at this time.
- 7) 2009 Budget. Bill Faherty distributed an initial budget report. Possible program cuts and possible revenue sources will be discussed as the budget process proceeds. It is noted that the computer & equipment expense budget increased by 428%. Bill indicates that this is where the outlay was placed. Dennis Doughty will see if this can given its own line. Discussion for revenue sources included raising the reservation charge for the Irvine Park shelters; charging all entities for the use of the fields at Casper Park facilities for practices, games, tournaments; and raising pool daily and season pass fees.

Dale Berg left during the above discussion.

- 8) Discuss/Consider Recreation Program Report. Our fall soccer program revenue is down as we have lost about 40 kids to the soccer league started by the Middle School. The fall co-ed softball league has 9 teams; the fall men's league has 16. **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Curt Stepanek, all present voting aye, to accept report as read.**
- 9) Discuss / Consider Personnel Report. Bill Faherty passed out job descriptions. Bill also reports that the seasonal workers are done. Mary and Jennifer are also back to work after being off for medical reasons.
- 10) Discuss / Consider Friends of Irvine Park Zoo Report. No report.
- 11) Discuss / Consider Parks Maintenance Report. The issue of dogs being allowed in the City parks was discussed. There have been complaints of dogs in the neighborhood parks as well as at Casper Park. Bill will look into what would be needed to change the ordinance to disallow dogs at some of these parks.

Bill reports that he has received a new quote for the outside wall of the bobcat exhibit. It has increased to \$144,430. There is enough money in the donation account to move ahead with the footings and excavating for the wall. Bill would like to do this now while he can get assistance with the labor from the Street Dept. **Motion by Curt Stepanek, seconded by Carmen Muenich, all present voting aye, to proceed with the bobcat exhibit footings for the wall at a cost not to exceed \$21,000.00.**
- 12) Board Member comments or concerns. Bill indicated he had received a request for an appointment from the Board to be a Legislative Key Contact. **Motion by Carmen Muenich, seconded by Dennis Doughty, all present voting aye, to appoint Curt Stepanek as the Legislative Key Contact.**

Bill reported that he has received approval for the grant submitted for the trail along Duncan Creek to the pine grove. It's a matching grant, which can be matched with our labor.

Bill also indicated that the cougar exhibit opening may be the 1st week of October.

Dennis Doughty inquired if bikes were allowed on the trail on the north side of Irvine Park. Staff responded that bikes were not allowed, but the signage may not state that. This will be looked into.
- 13) Approve Claims. **Motion by Curt Stepanek, seconded by Dennis Doughty, all present voting aye, to approve claims of \$30,636.07.**
- 14) Adjournment. **Motion by Curt Stepanek, seconded by Audrey Stowell, all present voting aye, to adjourn.**

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary