

Meeting Minutes

Board of Park Commissioners

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1. Roll Call

Present - Glodosky, Sevenich, Freckmann, Curtis, Moore, Sorenson, McDonald, Wiza

Absent Excused - Okonek

Absent Unexcused - Hall

Also Present - Roger Trzebiatowski, Norm Barber, Dr. Milano, Dr. Sciarrone, Jack Barr, George Hanson, Tom Schrader, Carole Francel

2. Approval of the June 1, 2005 Minutes

Motion was made by Sevenich, seconded by Curtis to approve the Minutes of the June 1, 2005 Meeting.

Ayes: all, Nays: none. Motion carried.

3. Recommendation on Schmeeckle Meadows Subdivision

Drs. Milano and Sciarrone would like to develop approximately 32 acres of land, they currently own, between Indiana Avenue and Schmeeckle Reserve. The development would consist of single family, duplex and multi family totaling about 66 units. As per the city's subdivision ordinance, the Commission has the right to take an amount of land to provide park and recreation needs for the subdivision or cash-in-lieu of land. The amount of land we would require would be 2.3 acres; the owners are proposing to dedicate approximately 8 acres of land to the city. The northern edge of this 8 acres of land is adjacent to the Schmeeckle Reserve. Ron Zimmerman, Director of the Schmeeckle Reserve, has reviewed the proposal and would like to work with the city as to how the donated land is developed and maintained. The submitted plan proposed walking and bike trails that would connect to the Green Circle and Schmeeckle Reserve. Schrader would recommend acceptance of the land along with a strip of land at least 15 feet wide be donated somewhere between lots 8 through 10 to be used as a means of connecting the subdivision to the proposed park. Without such a connection, the park could be considered landlocked and without this connection, the only access to the land would be through Schmeeckle Reserve to the northeast of the subdivision. Also, we can't guarantee that future changes, made at the Reserve, wouldn't affect our access to the parcel. This strip of land or connection, would be similar to ones we have in Kirshling and Parkwood subdivisions as part of the Green Circle. We have had no problems with a trail running between lots in these two subdivisions.

Yudchitz stated that the Forest View lots were their higher priced lots, and would rather see a connection made between lots FVL 10 and SFL 3.

Schrader stated that if the strip is run between these two lots, the connection would dead end into private property.

Yudchitz said that Ron Zimmerman is working with the landowner, and plans on purchasing this parcel.

Sevenich wondered if the access would be part of the donated land and Schrader said that would be in addition to the 8 acres. Also, would it be part of the city parks. Schrader said he would hope that we could work with the University like we did with the Berard property. That, if we obtain this land we deed it over to the University to be part of the Schmeeckle Reserve.

Glodosky questioned if deeded to the University, would there be a guarantee of having a bike/walking path and Schrader said yes. He also asked how soon this project would start and Yudchitz, working with the Doctor's, said he has no timetable, at the present time, as he has to go before the Plan Commission, work with the City and Schmeeckle etc. A lot has to be worked out before they can start.

Sevenich inquired that at the ending stage, how many people would be residing in this area and Yudchitz estimated with 66 units at 2.5 people per unit, that approximately 120 people would live in the development.

Motion was made by Glodosky, seconded by McDonald to accept the donation of 8 acres of land from Drs. Milano and Sciarrone with the stipulation that an additional 15 ft. strip of land be donated between lots FVL10 and SFL3 as a means of connecting the subdivision to the donated 8 acres.

Ayes: all, Nays: none. Motion carried.

4. Proposal to Develop Roundhouse Park (Alderson Barber)

Barber showed some pictures of the area where he would like a park (on Patch Street) and a tower to oversee the area and train that is near by. He feels it would be a great asset to the area as tourists would come to take pictures of the trains going by, etc. He has talked with the Mayor and Tom Barrett and they were in favor of the proposal.

McDonald questioned the cost of purchasing the house and Barber said that he has talked to the owners and they would sell for \$75,000.00. He also stated that the house is in great need of repair and they would have a hard time selling it at that price to anyone but the city. McDonald also felt that the area would be too small for a park.

Barr questioned whether down the road, the railroad may want to demolish the Roundhouse and we would lose \$1,200.00 a year in taxes with the removal of the house.

Barber said that there was no guarantee that Canadian National would not demolish the building. Also, he estimated the total development would cost approximately \$150,000.00 and suggested that some of this could be acquired through room tax.

Yudchitz has talked with Kedrowski on his ideas for the development of the area, near the train, that would include: an historic walkway, museum, etc. Yudchitz thought that might be a better place to develop, than develop a new park. Sevenich said Mr. Kedrowski would be a good person to work with due to his dedication with the train.

Glodosky thought it was a nice idea but it is not in our long range plan, we have a lot of other current park needs and there is a waiting list for room tax money.

Motion was made by Sevenich, seconded by Glodosky to form a sub-committee to work out the details and options on developing Roundhouse Park. Volunteers to serve on committee were Hall, Freckmann, Sevenich and Barber.

Ayes: all, Nays: none. Motion carried.

5. Proposal to Develop Dog Park (Aldersperson Barber)

Barber felt the residents need a dog park, in the city, as not everyone knows about the dog park at Standing Rocks and it is too far away. He suggested an area next to the Waste Treatment Plant. Schrader stated that after talking to other staff members, he found out that site is not available. This area may be needed for future expansion of the plant.

McDonald felt that it was not a good area as there is a lot of wild life in that area for people to enjoy, the waste problem and liability issues were also a factor.

Schrader stated that the current park at Standing Rocks is 40 acres and the County is talking about adding more land to the park, they have had problems with waste, some additional maintenance costs and in the future, may have to charge a fee. With current budget questions, it would be difficult to get additional workers, mowers, etc. to take care of a dog park in the city.

Glodosky said that one of the problems at Standing Rocks is the tall grass, making it hard to find feces.

Barber thought the land fill with its 3-4 acres would be a great place and it could be fenced in which wouldn't bother other wildlife.

Wiza felt we need a local dog park. A lot of his constituents have requested an area where they can run their dogs.

Motion was made by Wiza, seconded by Glodosky to create a sub-committee to research the feasibility of having a dog park established in the city. Glodosky and Wiza volunteered to be on this committee.

Ayes: Glodosky, Sevenich, Freckmann, Moore, Sorenson, Wiza

Opposed: Curtis, McDonald

Motion carried.

6. Director's Report

July 20-22 we will be hosting the WPRA Summer Parks Tour with approximately 80 people attending. Thursday we will be touring County Parks and Friday, Zenoff, Goerke and Iverson.

- Pool opened a week later as Contractor overbid himself; received \$1,800.00 for 18 days of fines.
- Forestry Department doing tree survey for elm disease and oak wilt.
- Working on landscaping for Business 51 corridor and downtown Permanent Christmas tree.
- Riverfront Rendezvous was a great success and compliment was given to Department, by McDonald, for a job well done.

7. Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Commissioners, Motion was made by Wiza, seconded by Moore, to adjourn meeting at 7:25 p.m.

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