

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE PARK, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
NORTH BRANCH IN THE COUNTY OF CHISAGO
AND IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA**

REGULAR SESSION

May 5, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

The North Branch Park, Trails and Open Space Commission met in regular session and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Charles Heinzl.

OATH OF OFFICE:

Sondrol administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Novlan

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners present were Michael Novlan, Mic Dahlberg, Charles Heinzl, and John Pantelis. Commissioners absent Bob Bernier. Also present was Council Liaison Jensen and GIS Specialist Nathan Sondrol.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Pantelis, seconded by Dahlberg to approve the February 3, 2014 Regular Session Minutes with the removal of the word "as" at the end of the paragraph on page 3.6. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Sondrol noted he had provided the commissioners a letter from the North Branch American Legion regarding the proposed Central Park land swap discussion.

STAFF REPORTS:

6.1 Park Dedication Fund

Sondrol reported the current fund balances.

6.2 Project Updates

Sondrol provided the latest project updates for the Commission.

The commission discussed the need for a warming house and lighting at the ice rink at Wildridge Park to increase the number of users to be able to justify the maintenance of the rink.

The commission discussed looking into the possibility of widening 410th Street to allow for additional parking adjacent to the park

with the street improvement project. Pantelis suggested looking into if Park Dedication Funds could be used to help cover the cost of adding space for parking.

The commission discussed the DNR Park and Trail Legacy Grant program and looking into starting the process for submitting an application for the upcoming solicitation. The commission discussed providing matching funds as the last application scored lower for not having any local match provided. The commission agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

7.1 Eagle Scout Project – Bluebird Houses

Scout Jacob O'Mera provided an overview of his proposed Eagle Scout project to construct six (6) Bluebird Houses and to place them in Harder and Branch Acres Parks.

Motion by Dahlberg, seconded by Pantelis, to approve Jacob O'Mera's Eagle Scout project to construct and place bluebird houses in City approved locations within Harder and Branch Acres Parks. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

7.2 Special Event Permit – Red Bull Military Appreciation Day

Sondrol presented the commission with the CSOAF's special event permit for the use of Central Park for Red Bull Military Appreciation Day on June 15, 2014.

Motion by Novlan, seconded by Dahlberg, to approve the CSOAF's special event permit for the Red Bull Military Appreciation Day on June 15, 2014 in Central Park. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

7.3 Special Event Permit – Midsummer Days

Sondrol presented the commission with the Legions special event permit request for the use of Central Park for Midsummer Days on June 18-22, 2014.

Motion by Pantelis, seconded by Novlan, to approve the North Branch American Legions special event permit for the use of Central Park for Midsummer Days on June 18-22, 2014. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

7.4 2015 Capital Improvement Plan 2015-2024

Sondrol presented the commission with the existing 10 year CIP plan. He noted that staff suggested adding Central Park playground equipment to the CIP.

Jensen suggested prioritizing the improvements and to start working towards pushing them into the budget.

The commission felt that the Northwood Tennis court resurfacing should be the top priority. The commission agreed to add \$60,000 for playground equipment in Central Park playground in 2016. The commission also felt the Central Park basketball court should be a high priority.

OLD BUSINESS:

8.1 Comprehensive Parks, Trails and Open Space Plan Review

Sondrol informed the commission that the City Council directed staff to obtain a formal opinion on the ability to sell existing city owned park lands.

Pantelis felt that the commission's review of the city owned park lands provided a good summary to the community and he felt there were not any lands that were screaming for commercial sale ability and that there is land in the industrial park that should be focused on being sold.

Dahlberg noted that he has been contacted by several residents inquiring about the status of the Central Park land swap and inquired for a status update.

Sondrol stated that the Council direction was that a development plan would need to be provided from Peterson Mill for further discussion and that it would be up to the Mill to move forward.

Sondrol noted that staff has not received any inquires or plans from the Mill since the work session.

Dahlberg felt that if the City is not interested in the concept of doing a land swap they should take a formal stance on it to let the residents and the Mill know before investing into developing plans.

Jensen noted that the Council informed the Mill that a development plan and additional information was needed to make a decision. He felt the Council owed the Mill the respect to listen any proposal presented.

Motion by Dahlberg, seconded by Pantelis, to adjourn. All voted
AYE. Motion carried.

ADJOURNED at 8:19 p.m. by Charles Heinzl.

APPROVED _____ ATTEST _____

Respectfully submitted,
Nathan Sondrol, GIS Specialist
NMS