

**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**

**June 2, 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.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners present were Michael Novlan, Mic Dahlberg, Charles Heinzl, John Pantelis and Bob Bernier. Commissioners absent None. Also present was GIS Planning Specialist Nathan Sondrol.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Novlan, seconded by Dahlberg to approve the May 5, 2014 Regular Session Minutes. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:           NONE

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Pantelis added discussing the layout of the project updates as item 7.3.

Dahlberg added discussing mosquito spraying in City parks as item 7.4.

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 agreed to allow the North Branch Youth Football Association to place their storage trailer in Roger Johnson Memorial Park for this year but needed to look towards a long term solution.

The Commission agreed to install the donated parking lot lights in Harder Park.

NEW BUSINESS:

**7.1 Ballfield Sign Advertising Request - NBBA**

Sondrol presented the NBBA's request to solicit funds for ballfield improvements thru advertising signs on the city's ballfield fencing.

Pantelis noted concerns of "earmarking" funds for one organization and having those funds not being available for other groups.

The NBBA noted that there would be little incentive for them to do the leg work of soliciting funds if the money were to go to other sports not doing the work.

Novlan noted that if funds were raised thru the advertising this could free up other funds that may have been otherwise used on ballfield improvements.

Motion by Novlan, seconded by Bernier, to obtain direction from the City Auditors and/or Attorney on the ability of the NBBA to solicit funding thru ballfield sign advertising in city parks, on behalf of the city, with the revenue to be designated for ballfield improvements.

The commission discussed the existing ballfield sign advertising agreement and agreed to leave the agreement and fee as is for this year.

Bernier withdrew his second.

Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Pantelis, seconded by Bernier, to recommend approval to obtain direction from the City Auditors and/or Attorney on the ability of the NBBA to solicit funding thru ballfield sign advertising in city parks, on behalf of the city, with the revenue to be designated for ballfield improvements and to approve the NBBA to begin garnering support if they are determined to be able to do so. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

**7.2 Preliminary Plat – Beach Homes Site**

Sondrol presented the commission with an overview of the proposed preliminary plat for the Beach Homes site.

Dahlberg expressed concerns of land not being acquired thru park dedication and resulting in a situation similar to Casselberry Ponds without a park. He suggested accepting a smaller portion of land on the east side of the development that could be combined with

land from the adjacent parcel when developed to ensure that a park would be provided for the neighborhood.

Larry Beach inquired if the park dedication funds from this development could be earmarked for the future development of the neighborhood park or placed in Wildridge Park as there are not any other parks on the west side of the freeway. He felt that a park being located on the parcel to east would be more centrally located and could be incorporated in with the North Branch of the Sunrise River.

The commission discussed various land and cash options for the development.

Motion by Bernier, seconded by Novlan, to recommend acceptance of the cash option for the proposed Beach Homes Site preliminary plat. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

### **7.3 Project Updates**

Pantelis discussed the layout of the project updates in the packet and was looking for discussion with the rest of the commission on how to address existing issues that have been on for a long time or those items that are not current discussion topics.

Dahlberg noted that he liked having a “to do” list provided.

Pantelis noted that he would like to just have items listed that are discussion topics.

Bernier noted that he liked having the list but was in favor of a formatting change.

Sondrol noted that he would reformat the project updates to include current discussion items at the top and to place the long term planning items at the bottom for the next meeting and the commission could review at the next meeting.

### **7.4 Mosquito Control in City Parks**

Dahlberg brought up the idea of spraying the city parks for mosquitos and he felt that this is a quality of life issue. He noted that the cities of Cambridge and Braham spray for mosquitos.

The commission felt that the neighboring cities should be contacted to get cost estimates.

Pantelis noted that this would be a maintenance issue and that park dedication funds would not be able to be used.

Motion by Dahlberg, seconded by Pantelis, to recommend the City Council to look into the possibility of spraying city parks for mosquitos. All vote AYE. Motion carried

Dahlberg noted that he had been approached by a resident inquiring about the city planning for bicycle safety and was looking to the commission to see if this is something that they would want to discuss further.

Sondrol noted that there is funding currently available for items such as signage thru the SHIP program.

Dahlberg felt education is a key component to bicycle safety.

Sondrol noted that the School Resource Officer does currently provide education at the schools and the Police Department hosts a Pedal with Police event as well.

Bernier requested a map of current bicycle routes within the city for the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

**8.1 DNR Park & Trail Legacy Grant Program**

Sondrol provided the commission an overview of the DNR Park and Trail Legacy Grant program. He noted that this would be the last year of the current structure of the grant program as the program is shifting to the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trail Commission and projects would be prioritized by region.

Dahlberg noted he would like to apply for acquisition of the Carlson property.

Motion by Bernier, seconded by Pantelis, to recommend approval of starting the process to apply for a grant to extend the Sunrise Prairie Trail from North Branch to Harris through the DNR Park & Trail Legacy Grant Program. AYES 4, NAY (1) Dahlberg. Motion carried.

The commission discussed providing matching funds for the grant.

Sondrol noted that matching funds would help the city's scoring on the application.

Motion by Pantelis, seconded by Novlan, to recommend to the city council to provide a funding match with the application if there is available funding. All voted AYE. Motion carried.

Dahlberg noted that he voted NAY to the previous motion as he felt the city should provide matching funds to show the city is dedicated to the project.

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

ADJOURNED at 8:26 p.m. by Charles Heinzl.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,  
Nathan Sondrol, GIS Specialist  
NMS