

LOWELL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2008, AT 8:30 A.M.

Present: Beachum, Green, Pomper and Pfaller.

Absent: none.

Also Present: Dave Pasquale, Dave Austin, Steve Oakes, Sharon Ellison, Lynette Salzwedel, Jeff Altoft and Jim Hall.

1. Green moved, Pfaller supported to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2008 meeting as submitted. Motion carried.
2. Dave Austin of Williams and Works reviewed the Recreation Plan Update. It is planned that the document will have final review and approval in March. Pfaller provided corrections.

Austin requested input from the Commissioners on goals and objectives as well as five year capital improvements. The following was given:

- complete irrigation of Creekside Park
  - Recreation Park – restrooms and concession stands (\$120,000)
  - Richards Park irrigation (\$15,000), new playground, picnic shelter, lighting
  - Stoney Lakeside Park – walkways and trails (\$10,000), gazebo, parking lot, skateboard park (\$100,000), docking at boat launch
  - Upper Bridge Park – boat dock, launch
  - RV Park
  - Creekside Park – dugouts, garage storage consolidation
3. Pasquale noted that the YMCA, Kent County Youth Fair, Lowell Xtreme Softball and Lowell Little League have all signed Parks Use Agreements. Lowell Youth Football will have an agreement considered by the City Council at its February 19 meeting.
  4. The proposal of having the Lowell Area Recreation Authority provide regional recreation management was discussed. Pfaller said he provides his total support. Beachum noted only 25% of participants in recreational organizations using the City parks live in the City. This is a good first step.
  5. A Dog Park Report was received by the Parks Commission noting the following:
    - The Dog Park Committee has placed several piles of sand inside the fence to be used for leveling the low areas. It will be spread as soon as weather and conditions permit.

- The Committee would greatly appreciate the planting of any trees on the exterior of the fence surrounding the off leash area. In the future we may be offering the option of a tree for the interior as a donation to the LDP. The Parks Commission did mention the possibility of having trees distributed by the Arbor Board for this purpose.
- The donor recognition board has been completed with permanent listing of donors and supporters of the park.
- The LDP Committee continues to monitor and discourage parking along Bowes Road. We would like to explore the possibility of permanent parking on the south side of the road when it is reconstructed. Another option as Dan DesJarden suggested might be a parking lot in the area of the substation when it is removed.

The water line proposal was briefly discussed by the Commission.

6. No report was given for the RV Park proposal at this time.

Jim Hall mentioned the idea of an equestrian area in the park.

7. Pasquale told the Commission that a phone at the Recreation Park boat launch was not possible because of the flood plain.
8. Bill and Paul's Sporthaus once again requested the use of Stoney Lakeside Park for kayak demos on Saturday, May 10 from 12 – 4 p.m., Tuesday, June 3 from 5 – 8 p.m., Tuesday, June 24 from 5 – 8 p.m. and Tuesday, July 22 from 5 – 8 p.m.

Austin noted the kayaking has been great.

Pfaller moved, Green supported to approve Bill and Paul's Sporthaus usage of Stoney Lakeside Park on the above dates for kayak demos. Motion carried.

Pasquale mentioned upon investigation pay phones are being used in the park and should stay as is. The Commission concurred.

9. No comments were received for Creekside Park and the proposed Skateboard Park.
10. The Commission discussed more lighting, a proposed gazebo and ice skating at Richards Park. Beachum mentioned the need to have other organizations help to maintain the rink. He recommended the six DPW employees who assisted in the maintenance of the rink be provided with \$50 gift certificates from Gary's Meat Market.

Green moved, Pomper supported to provide \$50 gift certificates to the six DPW employees who helped maintain the ice skating rink this winter. Motion carried.

Pfaller said a City Council worksession was held on the North Washington property and having the 27 acres designated as park property. By consensus, the Commissioners were not opposed to having this acreage into the park system as a natural preserve as long as it is no more financial burden.

Beachum proposed having a plaque and tree in a City park up to to \$250 in honor of Margaret Hoats who served many years on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Pfaller moved, Green supported to approve \$250 for the purchase of a plaque and tree in a City park in honor of Margaret Hoats. Motion carried.

The next scheduled meeting is Saturday, March 17, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
David M. Pasquale