

LOWELL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2007, AT 8:30 A.M.

Present: Beachum, Green, Hoats, Pfaller and Pomper.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Jeff Eckstrom, Bob Richardson, Gary Warning, Dan DesJarden, Dave Pasquale, Greg Pratt, Cody Dalton, Missy Beckhorn, Staci Messersmith and Mike Meppelink.

1. Pfaller moved, Green supported to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2007 meeting as submitted. Motion carried.
2. The Commission discussed the proposed agreements with Lowell Youth Football, YMCA, Kent County Youth Fair, Lowell Xtreme Softball and Lowell Little League. Gary Warning of Lowell Little League said there are some changes needed with the draft agreement. Mike Meppelink of Lowell Youth Football expressed concern regarding the required two million dollar liability insurance policy. He questioned if a blanket coverage among groups could be split. Bob Richardson of Lowell Xtreme Softball asked about City Council action and any negotiation of fees. It was mentioned that the parks and Recreation Commission provides recommendations on these agreements for Council action. The issue of annual reviews was discussed along with scheduling.
3. Jeff Eckstrom announced a tentative agreement between the Dog Park committee and Dr. Bruce Langlois of the Lowell Animal Hospital. The agreement allows the future Lowell Dog Park to be named The Lowell Animal Hospital Off Leash Area at Stoney Lakeside Park. In exchange, Dr. Langlois has agreed to contribute the total costs for the fencing, gates and installation. The agreement will be for ten years.

The Dog Park committee is still collecting donations for site preparation, landscaping, leashing and off leashing areas, pathways, bag dispensers and a community announcement/donor recognition board.

Eckstrom said his committee would run the park this summer assuming completion of construction. It was noted that an annual maintenance fee for the park is needed.

4. The RV Park Proposal will be included in the community wide Parks and Recreation master plan which is being considered for a \$35,000 Lowell Area Community Fund grant.
5. Under Recreation Park, a proposal to provide four foot high fencing by the old tennis area for clean up was discussed. The cost has been estimated to be \$5,000. The DPW is to consult with the Youth Fair and Lowell Youth Football on the issue.

It was noted that the dock is not in the Grand River yet for the high school crew.

6. Mindy Oster told the Commission that the Skateboard Park committee has marked out an area 70 feet by 100 feet at Stoney Lakeside Park. By, consensus, the Commissioners agreed with the side. Fund raising will be started.

7. Under Creekside Park, Warning said there have been power problems with the pitching machine. Who is responsible for repairs? The Commissioners stated Little League is since they had the wiring installed.
8. Pasquale said a grant application has been submitted to the Lowell Area Community Fund for the construction of a year round skating rink at Richards Park.
9. No comments were received for Upper Bridge Park.
10. The Sports Complex located in the old polo fields by Fallasburg Park was briefly discussed.

Little League requested that the City consider a blanket County health license where costs could be shared. The County charges significantly higher than previously. Pfaller said he wouldn't want the City involved because of liability.

A mobile food wagon had been proposed for Creekside.

Green moved, Beachum supported to allow a mobile food wagon on a temporary basis (6 to 7 weeks) but not permanently because of aesthetic consideration. Motion carried.

A question arose. Will there be charges for the dog park? Do they exchange dollars? If not, charges are levied.

DesJarden stated the following rental charges for the Creekside pavilion:

2005 (38 parties)	\$1050
2006 (30 parties)	\$1320

Should this be raised? By consensus, the Commissioners stated that the rental charge should be left as is for another year.

Discussion was held whether Lowell Area Public Schools should pay for the pavilion? It was generally felt that the School should pay for the dumpster use during an event.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, 2007 at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David M. Pasquale