

LOWELL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2009, AT 8:30 A.M.

Present: Beachum, Green, Hall and Pfaller.

Absent: Pomper.

Also Present: Dave Pasquale, Andy Kraft, Scott Fosburg, James Hinton, Matt Smith, Toby Alderink, Cindy Petersen and Andrew Schrauben.

Pfaller moved, Hall supported to excuse the absence of Commissioner Pomper. Motion carried.

1. Pfaller moved, Hall supported to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2009 meeting as corrected. Motion carried.
2. Under Recreation Park, Hall stated a need to clean up the riverbank. The Department of Public Works should establish what heavy equipment could be utilized. The area would run from the culvert near the confluence of the Flat and Grand River south to the North Country trail.

Hall moved, Pfaller supported to investigate the clean up of the riverbank at Recreation Park from the lift station to the Grand River. Motion carried.

On behalf of Lowell Youth Football, Matt Smith said the press box is done and inspected. He provided acknowledgments to Dan Vos Construction for volunteers, the Lacrosse group and Jim Ritzema. Keys have been provided to the City for the scoreboard controller. Smith noted that there is common board membership between Youth Football and Lacrosse which helps with coordination. Also, seeding of the field is done in season.

Cindy Petersen stated Kevin Taylor, a Lowell Lacrosse representative, will attend future Parks meetings.

Toby Alderink, on behalf of Backyard Dreams, has requested field usage for upcoming tournaments with the Grand Rapids Amateur Baseball League. He needed availability approved by the end of January.

The Commissioners felt field commitment should be given in April. The Y and Lowell Little League need to be consulted.

3. Regarding Stoney Lakeside Park, Fosburg said the fire rings have been purchased. He requested recycled picnic table boards for tops and seats for replacement. Fosburg noted for six tables the cost would be \$1800.

Pfaller moved, Hall supported to purchase six picnic table tops and seats at Stoney Lakeside Park from the Lee Fund at a cost of \$1800. Motion carried.

Andy Kraft on behalf of the dog park thanked the Public Works Department for plowing. He noted a memorial plaques will be placed for dogs.

4. Under Creekside Park, the old wood chips around Creekside Kingdom have been removed.
5. James Hinton said Eric Wold is the coordinator from Xtreme Softball for ice maintenance at the skating rink.

Fosburg mentioned the cost of \$92 for a green snow fence. The Commissioners discussed the issue. What about a permanent fence? What is the cost? Are there safety issues and concerns of neighbors?

The Commissioners decided not to provide a snow fence for the ice skating rink.

6. No comments were given for Upper Bridge Park.
7. Under Other Business, Commissioner Hall issues were:
 - We have not been able to schedule a “walking tour” of the Moose/Rogers property with DEQ representatives yet. Will attempt to schedule a 2010 spring tour.
 - The Washington Street property was discussed as a potential site for a camping facility. A boat launch appeared not to be feasible.
 - Questioned the cost of \$2 million liability insurance policy. Pfaller mentioned this is now the standard rate.
8. Commissioner Pfaller said this is his last meeting and thanked everyone.

Hall moved, Green supported to provide a tree and plaque at the Stoney Lakeside Park pavilion in honor of Jim Pfaller’s service to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Motion carried.

Beachum mentioned that LARA is moving ahead with trails this Spring. Grants are being provided from the DNR and MDOT. The first phase will be from the Wege Wittenbach Center to Cherry Creek Elementary.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David M. Pasquale