

*Park Commission Long-range Planning Workshop Notes
January 12, 2007 9:00 to 11:00 am*

Park Commission Long-range Planning Workshop Called to Order at 9:05 am

1. Reid Park / Pioneer Park

Discussion

- Reid Park playground -- CDA has given initial approval to include in Third Avenue project. Will need to prepare presentation for their next meeting (February). Would include similar "imagination" playground equipment and toddler swings. All agreed should follow "red" theme. Would like to try and get something installed this spring if possible. Then need to budget for replacement & maintenance costs. The other section should be fine for another 10 to 15 years.
- Grilling in park -- should we continue to allow charcoal grills. Concerns expressed over non-residents using parks, aesthetics of charcoal collecting bins. But how would we handle signage? Cannot limit access to park, as it is open on four sides.
- Explore ice skating in park or on lake
- Ball field -- get estimate on converting to grass infield at some point to increase usable space for other activities
- Gazebo -- need to repair for now, and begin to budget for replacement
- Discussed developing a facility maintenance schedule -- have a list of facilities and what type of work should be done
- Park House -- current uses by BF Rec, Garden Club, card games. Try and increase usage by publicizing more. Future lakefront plans may include larger community center.
- Pioneer Park -- find ways to emphasize historical significance. Need to find points of interest to highlight throughout village with plaques or other signage. Then could create pamphlet for walking tours. Currently working on documenting memorial trees and landscape trees. Need to improve maintenance in Pioneer Park, through improved communication with group doing maintenance or volunteer work
- Shore path -- need to improve access to North shore path and signage on south shore path
- Would help in all parks planning and management to have maps of all areas. Check with Dennis to see if we can get GIS maps or see what is available online.

Action Items

1. Reid Park playground meeting Wednesday, January 16, 11:00am. Subcommittee will report at the monthly meeting that evening.
2. Park Walk items -- gazebo

2. Hildebrandt / Headwaters / Fen

Discussion

- Need to begin planning for maintenance in 2009, currently in last year of Agrecol contract. Can outsource or do in-house, but will need to begin planning for budget purposes.
- Goal for 2008 to increase stream maintenance, can use resources from Trout Unlimited, but need specific plan. Would help to have map of water course so can mark areas where work is needed. Can also approach school to see if they are interested in participating in stream restoration project.

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- Need to expand path system, develop a plan for the upland areas
- Could possibly place a pedestrian bridge across the stream from South Main Street into the Headwaters area

3. Mohr Park

Discussion

- Village owns 33 feet of lake front property off South Shore Drive (past Indian Hills Road). Currently there are flagstone on the lake path. Parks should consider putting a sign on the property to mark the shore path. If the sign is consistent with other village signs, will help clarify that the land is village owned. Currently there is one parking space for service vehicles for the lift station there. The adjoining property owner has landscaped and maintains some of the area. May also want to consider placing park bench there.

4. Duck Pond

Discussion

- Gateway triangle project nearing completion, major construction and roadway done. Landscaping will go out for bid in February and work will begin in April or May. CDA will put out an RFP for groundwater investigation to determine water quality. Phase II of entrance improvements would include road and path from entrance to pavilion. Facility improvements considered include hard court for basketball or tennis.
- For future products initiated by the CDA, CDA will arrange for maintenance for one year.
- Parks will need to develop maintenance plan for gateway triangle by May 2009.
- Parks will work to set-up 501(c)(3) group that can help handle fund-raising for park improvements and grants that can only go to non-profits.
- Other activities to consider for the future at Duck Pond -- cross country skiing, sledding hill, frisbee golf course, hard court, sand volleyball court
- Sports groups use pavilion for concession sales and keep proceeds for their organizations.
- Would be helpful to keep vending machines there, but only if they are service regularly.
- Easter Egg Hunt put on by Big Foot Recreation will continue to be held at Duck Pond.
- Community events -- considered community picnic at Duck Pond last year, but did not have time to plan. This year would like to plan several Park Open House days to encourage residents to visit our parks.
- Long-term plan for Duck Pond includes lights on baseball/softball fields, as this increases the number of games that can be played without taking up more field space.

General

- Need to develop and use the website more, include pictures and descriptions of parks
- Can keep Parks records and archives in the library