

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

**April 25, 2016
Special Meeting**

APPROVED

Members Present: Maureen Bartz, Mike Eliason, Barb Farrell, Bryan Feldhaus, David Speich, Lincoln Tilson, Jim Young
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Dan Schultz, Director of Parks and Recreation and Sonja Honl, Recording Secretary
Others Present: Dwight Johnson, City Administrator and Tom Schuster, Parks Supervisor

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Bartz called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Honl administered the oath of office to new Parks and Recreation Commission members Feldhaus and Speich.

The Commission left City Hall for a tour of the Greystone Development. Eliason joined the tour at the development site. The Commission viewed the site of the future park to be built in the development, and also drove to the Bella Vista Development for a look at the park site and lake which will someday have a trail around it and other possible amenities. The group then returned to City Hall Council Chambers for the duration of the meeting and Eliason called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 28, 2016 MEETING MINUTES: MOTION** by Speich to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2016 meeting. **SECOND** by Farrell. Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion passed.

4. **AUDIENCE INPUT:** None

5. **DISCUSSION (Response to Audience Input):** None

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Parks and Recreation Facilities Referendum** – Schultz handed out a special addition of the Rosemount City News which was mailed to Rosemount residents to provide them with information regarding the upcoming referendum. He informed the Commission that there will be two open houses scheduled before the May 17 referendum, so that residents may ask questions and get more information about the referendum.

- b. **Public Park Planning in the Greystone Development** – Schultz reviewed revised Concept Plan C which was being brought back to the Commission after suggestions from last month's meeting. The Commission had agreed that the park should include a basketball court, baseball backstop, community garden plots and a water source/spigot. The pollinator gardens were to be moved away from the play area and the play area was moved away from the lot lines. The plan also now includes an area near the basketball court that can be flooded for use as a pleasure rink. Bartz asked if we could include skate spots for skateboarders along the trail in this park. Per Schultz we could add something to the motion that says we would consider including a couple of skate stop amenities along the trail. Schultz also asked that the Commission discuss whether or not to accept the .8 acre strip of land under the power lines as future parks dedication. Schultz would recommend accepting cash in lieu of land for the .8 acres. **MOTION** by Young to approve Concept Plan C for the public park in the Greystone Development, with the addition of studying the plan for possible locations for skate stop features. **SECOND** by Bartz. Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

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7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Scheduling Process for Spring/Summer Tournaments** – Schultz received an e-mail from the Rosemount Area Athletic Association (RAAA) Traveling Softball Director expressing a concern that a non-Rosemount group has been given priority field use on one weekend in the summer, June 18-19 (the third weekend in June). Schultz had received an e-mail in January of 2104 with the same concern. Several years ago RAAA lost the use of fields for that weekend when they had to cancel a tournament. The weekend has been used by MN Irish for the last few years. RAAA would like this weekend back. Schultz reviewed the park use procedure and provided the Commission with a list of the tournament schedule for this summer. The City's field rental procedure states that *"Groups who have had a weekend tournament one year, will have priority use for the same weekend in the following year. If a group declines a particular weekend, it will then be made available for other groups to use. This new group will then have priority for the next year."* RAAA currently has baseball or softball tournaments scheduled for eight weekends, and MN Irish has tournaments scheduled for two weekends. Staff's concern is that we don't want the fields to sit empty if RAAA traveling softball doesn't have enough teams to run a tournament. Schultz asked the Commission if they would like him to check with other cities regarding the wording in their field rental policies. The Commission noted that the MN Irish tournament brings people from outstate to the area, restaurants and businesses benefit from this and also that "non-residents" is an issue, but RAAA includes kids from other cities, so they have non-resident participants, too. The Commission noted that our policy is straightforward and well known, and this is not an issue with procedure. The issue is that it is not working in RAAA's favor. The Commission asked if groups could trade weekends, and Schultz stated that we don't have a problem with that. It was suggested that RAAA and MN Irish talk to each other and try to resolve this without the Parks Commission's intervention.
- b. **Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan Update** – The Parks Trails and Open Space Master Plan was last updated in 2008. Schultz will make sure all of the Commissioners receive a copy of the plan for review. We will look at trends such as disc golf, lacrosse, trails, and growth of youth sports, and make recommendations regarding facilities that should be included in the plan. Schultz suggested that we could hold open house meetings in parks and also possibly at a model home in a new development in order to gather input from people who live in the neighborhood. The plan should be completed this fall. The Commission asked if we had any statistics on use of the tennis courts in Rosemount and the skate park. We could post signs at the parks with "text this number to give us your feedback" on them. Schultz mentioned we could use QR codes to link people to a survey, or use Survey Monkey to gather information. We could also look at light activation data.
- c. **Director's Report** – Schultz handed out a flyer on "Pathways from Poverty to Thriving in Dakota County," a presentation by Kelly Harder, Director of Community Services Division in Dakota County, that was part of a training for the City of Rosemount at the Rosemount Community Center. The Commissioners were invited to attend this free presentation.

The park improvement fund balance as of March 31, 2016 was \$456,659.44. Dedication fees of \$44,503 were received. There were no grants or donations. Interest was \$32.63. There were expenditures of \$1,728.50 for design fees for Greystone Park and Ailesbury (formerly Prestwick) Park.

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Highlights of Last Month – Parks and Recreation staff participated in the Red Pine Elementary Health and Fitness Fair on April 9. The Rosemount Ice Arena will have the ice out for maintenance from May 9 to June 12. We had a very busy ice season and may not take out ice in the future if maintenance isn't needed. We received 68 applications for garden plots this year and were able to accommodate all who decided to rent a plot. New batting cage netting is up at Jaycee Park.

In May the Commission will need to choose a chair and vice chair. Both positions will serve one year terms.

The City Council would like the Commissioners to join them on a bike tour of some of Rosemount's parks. The Commissioners thought this was a great idea. Schultz will let the Commissioners know when a date and time are decided on.

Rosemount's Arbor Day tree give away event will take place on May 7.

One of the City Council's goals for 2016-17 is building a small dog park. We will talk about this at the May Commission meeting. Staff will research what other cities are doing, rules, etc. The Commission asked if there was a way to find out how many Rosemount residents have licenses at the Eagan, Dakota County, and Burnsville dog parks.

8. **ADJOURNMENT - MOTION** by Bartz to adjourn the meeting. **SECOND** by Young.
Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Sonja Honl, Parks and Recreation Secretary