

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

May 23, 2016

Regular Meeting

APPROVED

Members Present: Maureen Bartz, Mike Eliason, Barb Farrell, Jim Young, Dave Speich, Bryan Feldhaus
Members Absent: Lincoln Tilson
Staff Present: Dan Schultz, Director of Parks and Recreation
Others Present: None

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Eliason called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** 7c Selection of Chair and Vice Chair
3. **APPROVAL OF THE April 25, 2016 MEETING MINUTES: MOTION** by Farrell to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2016 meeting. **SECOND** by Bartz. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion passed.
4. **AUDIENCE INPUT:** None
5. **DISCUSSION (Response to Audience Input):** None
6. **OLD BUSINESS:** None
 - a. **Parks and Recreation Facilities Referendum** – Schultz provided the Commissioners with an overview of the referendum results. Schultz told the Commission that he has not had a meeting with the City Council yet to discuss what will happen next. Schultz will let the Commission know when any meetings will be held to discuss the referendum projects.
7. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Dog Park** – Schultz introduced the topic of dog parks and identified that a dog park was included in the Council's 2016/2017 Goals as a Project/Initiatives. The actual description in the goal document states that the City will “open a dog park for small dogs along walking corridors.” Staff shared some information in a spreadsheet of what some other cities are offering for dog parks. Schultz indicated that the area north of the Community Center in Schwarz Pond Park was at one time an area that was permitted for pet owners to have their dogs off leash. Because of the development of this area, the Dakota County opening a new dog park near Rosemount and the addition of the skate park, the City no longer designated this area to be used for pet owners.

The Commission asked what did the Council mean by “small dog?” Schultz was not sure what they intended and mentioned that further discussion on the topic was needed with the City Council.

Schultz identified Schwarz Pond Park as the location that he feels would currently be the best location in our park system for an off leash dog park. He indicated that we do have other large areas where we could house a temporary dog park but that they are not near walking corridors. Schultz showed two different locations in Schwarz Pond Park that could be used for an off leash area. There is well worn footpath that runs from the trail north of the skate park to the road area south of the skate park. This is a short cut that many people use and Schultz feels we should look to have this foot path paved in the near future. The Commission asked what would happen to the native prairie/plantings in Schwarz Pond Park if a dog Park is located there. Schultz felt that a portion would need to be mowed down but that a portion could stay with trails would through it.

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The Commission asked Schultz to check and see how many dogs are licensed in Rosemount. Schultz indicated that he would check with the police department. Schultz expected the Commission would be discussing this topic again in June before making any decisions.

- b. **Director's Report** - The park improvement fund balance as of April 30, 2016 was \$441,821.59. Dedication fees of \$0 were received. There were no grants or donations. Interest was \$45.76. There were expenditures of \$8,382.61 for professional services on the Greystone and Ailesbury Park projects.

Highlights of Last Month – Schultz provided an overview of a number of activities from the month of April and May.

- c. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair – Farrell nominated Eliason for the chair position, **MOTION** by Farrell to have Eliason be the chair of the Commission, **Second** by Young Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 (Eliason abstained) Motion passed. Eliason nominated Bartz for the vice chair position, **MOTION** by Farrell to have Bartz be the vice-chair of the Commission, **Second** by Young Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 (Bartz abstained) Motion passed.
8. **ADJOURNMENT - MOTION** by Farrell to adjourn the meeting. **SECOND** by Bartz. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Dan Schultz, Parks and Recreation Director