

**CITY OF WOODSTOCK
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

October 13th, 2015
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Pro Tem Steve Erwin on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Pro Tem Steve Erwin, Bruce Farris, Pete Riis

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike McCleary

STAFF PRESENT: Recreation Director, Dave Zinnen; Public Works Director, Jeff Van Landuyt; Parks and Facility Superintendent, Ernie Nelson; City Manager, Roscoe Stelford

OTHERS PRESENT: Deputy City Clerk Amy Weber

C. FLOOR DISCUSSION:

1. Public comments

M. McCleary asked for comments. Jose Camacho of 22 Aspen Drive stated that he is concerned that the number of soccer fields available for practice have been declining. He felt this was mostly true for kids, little kids and teenagers. He also asked the Commission to make a spot for the Latino community. He finished by saying the Latino community is growing in Woodstock, so this is a good time to think about solving some of these problems and added that the Commissions goal and his goal are the same—to make Woodstock a good place. Pete Riis thanked Jose and stated this was a good time for him to be here since the Commission is just starting to put together its 10-year plan. Jose noted he is speaking for many residents, maybe 300-400. Pete Riis said that this was the sort of thing the Commission was looking for in forming user groups. D. Zinnen noted that the local league directors had been invited to the meeting, and previous ones, but haven't attended any of them.

Kyle Schultz, president and treasurer for Woodstock United Soccer Association, came before the Commission to request use of the Davis Road fields for practice and games for his Crossfire and Recreation soccer teams. He states currently his teams have exclusive rights to use District 200 fields however the agreement between his soccer organization and District 200 is that his organization is responsible for maintenance costs (\$20,000-\$25,000 annually) of Dist. 200 fields. K. Schultz states that if they are allowed to use Davis Road fields and Woodstock maintains those fields than the cost savings would be put back into the Woodstock community by improving the quality of Woodstock United soccer programs. He also addressed Mr. Camacho adding that Woodstock United is always looking to increase membership in the Latino community and previously they had a Latino liaison who interacted between Woodstock United and the Latino community.

P. Riis asked Mr. Schultz how many teams are in his organization. Schultz replied that they have 375 recreational and fifty travel players. P. Riis asked how often the teams would be using Davis

Road fields. K. Schultz replied that the fields would be used every day for practice with games mostly on Saturdays. P. Riis invited Mr. Schultz back for the November 10th Commission meeting.

Ernie Nelson noted that the grand opening of the Peace Park Labyrinth is scheduled for Sunday at 3pm.

2. Commission Member comments for any item not on the agenda
None.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Bruce Farris, second by Pete Riis to accept the July 14, 2015 meeting minutes amended as follows:

Steve Erwin referred to page 2, near the bottom that states *Steve Erwin indicated that he would prefer the sign not to be placed on the fence but rather on top of the scoreboard.* S. Erwin doesn't think he presented it that way and he meant that the scoreboard sign be primary and look good. Pete Riis added that the scoreboard issue has been put on hold for now.

Ayes: Chairman Pro Tem Steve Erwin, Pete Riis, Bruce Farris. Nays: None. Absentees: Mike McCleary. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Bruce Farris, second by Pete Riis to defer the September 8, 2015 minutes to the next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Ayes: Chairman Pro Tem Steve Erwin, Pete Riis, Bruce Farris. Nays: None. Absentees: Mike McCleary. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

E. TRANSMITTALS: (No discussion or action requested)

1. Recreation Department Report for September 2015
Pete Riis noted that a lot of numbers were down, and there were a lot of repairs at Woodstock Water Works this year. He asked if there is anything special planned to get people in the Rec Center. D. Zinnen replied that the numbers are actually pretty good at the Rec Center; numbers were down at WWW due to cold, rainy weather in May, June, and mid-July.
2. Parks Division Report for September 2015
Bruce Farris asked if the grass is coming back at the Barndance site, especially with the Thunder practicing on that area now. E. Nelson noted that there is a plan for after the Thunder is done, to irrigate and dormant seed it. They just fertilized the area. D. Zinnen then introduced Michelle Neuhart, who is interested in possibly being the fifth member of the Parks Commission Board. She is very involved with parks and recreation programs. She coaches and has a couple teams in the basketball program.

F. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of Park Master Plan- Chapters 1 & 2
P. Riis suggested the Commission review the plan, page by page. He noted that J. Van Landuyt will have to fill in several areas to make the plan up-to-date. He suggested staff take 1-2 chapters and bring back their comments to the next meeting. Jeff will get staff feedback on the

plan and get that feedback to the commission two weeks before their next meeting. D. Zinnen noted that usually the public only shows up if they are unhappy about something. If they are happy and satisfied, they do not show up. P. Riis asked if, once the plan is done, they should have a public hearing on the plan. D. Zinnen indicated that yes, there would need to be a public hearing. P. Riis made a motion to defer chapters one and two to the next meeting, pending public works review and feedback. B. Farris seconded. Commission accepted the motion.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of Belcher Property Purchase

D. Zinnen said that the Commission had a copy of a memo from Economic Development. Staff inspected the property with the Mayor and he is on board with recommending acquisition of ground. B. Farris asked if it will be recommended to the City Council, and D. Zinnen indicated that it would. There was further discussion of whether there is a need to purchase the house or just the land and whether the city might be willing to purchase additional land in the area to connect the Belcher property with Emricson Park. The Commission agreed that the city should be willing to consider land acquisitions. D. Zinnen agreed, adding that the city now has a soccer field, two baseball diamonds and an aquatic center that they wouldn't have if that parcel hadn't been acquired. J. Van Landuyt will include the land purchases in the CIP, along with more rec paths and bike paths to help connect the existing paths and sidewalks. B. Farris asked if the Commission needed to make a motion stating they are in favor of purchasing the Belcher property. J. Van Landuyt suggested that the minutes should reflect the Commission's recommendation for the purchase. Motion by B. Farris to recommend to the City Council purchase of the entire Belcher property site; second by P. Riis. All ayes, motion carried.

2. Discussion of Bicycle Trail Project

Jeff Van Landuyt, showed the Commission how they have created a plan for the north side of Rt. 14. They are putting in a path, to fill the between Culvers and the rest of the city, by extending the path past Walmart. It requires some agreements with the county. Additionally, Public Works and the Transportation Commission are working with Woodstock High School on creating bike lanes on many of the major roads in town. They are hoping to get bike enthusiasts involved as well as the high school students. They are hoping to create access to parks and allow families to ride bikes to parks.

3. Request by Avalanche Baseball Program to Display Sponsor Banners at Merryman Field Mr. Oman was not present, so no action was taken.

4. Request by Avalanche Baseball Program to Waive Team Fees for Projects Completed at Merryman Fields. Mr. Oman was not present so no action was taken.

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

B. Farris felt the Commission needed to look at transportation to and from park. One concern is how resident will get to the park. J. Van Landuyt suggested adding discussion of the park master plan as an agenda item.

1. Tentative agenda items identified by Administration
 - a.
 - b.

2. Requested by Commission: Any member may suggest an item to be considered by the Commission at a future meeting, but must be approved by a majority of the Commission to be included as a future agenda item.
 - a. Bike Paths
 - b. Discussion of Park Master Plan.
 - c.

I. ADJOURN:

Pete Riis made a motion to adjourn, Bruce Farris seconding. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm to a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 @ 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Weber – Deputy City Clerk