

**CITY OF WOODSTOCK
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**
July 14, 2015
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Mike McCleary on Tuesday, July 14, 2015 in Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mike McCleary, Peter Riis, Bruce Farris, Steve Erwin.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Nicolas Kearfott

STAFF PRESENT: Director of Public Works Jeff Van Landuyt, Parks & Facility Superintendent Ernie Nelson.

OTHERS PRESENT: Transportation Commission Chairman, Andrew Celentano.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

No minutes were presented to the Commission.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

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

TRANSMITTALS: (No discussion or action requested)

1. Recreation Department Reports for April, May, & June 2015
2. Public Works Parks & Facility Report April 14 thru July 1, 2015.
M. McCleary asked where the homeless shelter was that E. Nelson alluded to in his report. E. Nelson indicated that he did not know if that was the official title of the facility. The locker/ bathroom in the Old Fire Station on South Street was used for storage but now it's being put back into service whereby homeless people can utilize it for cleanup in a supervised environment. M. McCleary asked about the ramp that was being constructed at the Manke Road Park. E. Nelson stated that the playground was constructed in the middle of the site with no solid surface leading up to it. A disabled veteran who lives in the development requested a walk to be constructed so that they could watch their children in and around the playground equipment. Street Division employees have constructed a walkway from the existing sidewalk to the play structures as requested. A bench will also be donated by the HOA so a sitting area will be available for use as well.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Peace Park & Paths Project – Status Update
E. Nelson indicated that a peace park and labyrinth are being constructed at the Dick Tracy Way Park. The City has partnered with D200 and the Bull Valley Garden Club utilizing grant funds, City funds, and private donations. Commission members asked three questions: When will the parking lot be done? Will a parking lot be needed? When will these improvements be completed?
2. William C. Donato Conservation Area Wetland Walkway – Plan for Execution
E. Nelson indicated that a prototype walkway 6' x 6' was constructed by Woodstock H.S. EDD students. Parks Division employees will be constructing more this fall and winter and in the Spring of 2016, the

sections will be connected to form a walkway thru wetland areas within the park. Transportation Commission Chairman Andrew Celentano indicated that the Transportation Commission has been working with H.S. students for more than a few years now. They have designed roundabouts, planned handicapped access for sidewalk where there are stairs at the street level. The 6' x 6' sections will be connected with "D" rings. He tells students that they may see some of these projects constructed in the future. A. Celentano indicated that this coming year there are 10 students signed up for interaction with Woodstock Commissions thru PLTW or EDD programming. One Commission member asked if it was cheaper to use milled lumber for the prototypes? J. Van Landuyt said that the City has looked into that and yes the price per board foot is cheaper than buying kiln dried or wolmanized lumber. A. Celentano asked Commission Members to think about projects that students could complete in the future. B. Farris said he already has a project to consider. He said a walkway/ bridge between Merryman Fields and Woodstock North would be beneficial.

3. Emricson Park Field "A" Improvements thru BTF Grant – Status Update

E. Nelson that Field A has been closed for construction of improvements. The project has a September 1st completion date. P. Riis asked if the new field will have a grass or skinned infield? E. Nelson indicated a skinned infield. B. Farris asked if the grant was a 50/50 match? E. Nelson said yes. Are the poles high enough to light Dream Field in the future? E. Nelson; poles were not ordered with this in mind but it may be possible. Is field "A" being turned into a baseball field? E. Nelson said that the field will be set for 70' base paths. E. Nelson stated that funds were provided by Woodstock Girls Softball. User groups have been good about contributing funds for improvements.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Woodstock Girls Softball proposal to honor and name Bates Park Field Four after League Founder Barb Hathcock

Erich Thurow of Woodstock Girls Softball presented information for this request. He indicated that Woodstock Girls Softball was established in 1969 by Barb Hathcock and other volunteers. The league thought it would be a nice gesture to name a field after Barb since some of the founders of Woodstock Little League have fields named after them (i.e. Roskie Field, Sullivan Field). The request is to name Field 4 at Bates Park after Barb Hathcock. The league currently has 175-200 girls playing and they are currently in the middle of a tournament which was founded back in the 1970's when Barb was the league president. They would think a rock and plaque similar to other named fields would be appropriate. They would like to see a sign erected (copy of proposed sign was provided to Commission members) either on the batting cage fence, behind the field on posts, or on scoreboard. Sign would be made of blue & white which are league colors. Field 4 is the first lighted field opposite Roskie field, SW corner of Park. M. McCleary asked about the status of the scoreboard that Girls Softball was going to donate. E. Thorow indicated it would be available later in the fall of 2015, they were waiting for J.U.L.I.E. locates. S. Erwin asked if this request needs to go through the City Council for approval. J. Van Landuyt indicated yes. M. McCleary wanted to mention that the City has ball diamonds, pavilions, and parks named after individuals so he did not think that this request was out of line. S. Erwin made a motion to recommend that the City Council approve the naming of Field 4 at Bates Park in honor of league founder Barb Hathcock. B. Farris seconded the motion. S. Erwin indicated that he would prefer the sign not be placed on fence, but rather the top of the scoreboard. If approved by the City Council staff will work with Woodstock Girls Softball to provide some of the same items that are already provided on fields named after individuals.

2. Ryders Woods – Grant for Spoil Removal & Restoration

E. Nelson indicated that The Land Conservancy (TLC) received a grant to remove concrete spoil from Ryders Woods. It was a 50/50 match for which the City budgeted funds for. Work will be completed yet this year. Work is all part of the ongoing restoration efforts at this passive park site.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Update of the 2006 Parks & Recreation Master Plan

ADJOURN:

Motion by Bruce Farris, second by Steve Erwin to adjourn to a Regular Meeting August 11, 2015 @ 7:00 PM.

Ayes: Chairman Mike McCleary, Peter Riis. Nays: None. Absentees: Nicolas Kearfott. Abstentions: None.

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Van Landuyt – Director of Public Works