

## Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Committee Minutes of July 8, 2010

Meeting called to order by Jim Wein, chairperson, at 5:30 p.m. in Room 108 at City Hall Plaza, 630 S. Central Avenue.

**Present:** Jim Wein, Julie Smith, Alderman Tom Buttke, Tom Oettiker, Brenda Baur, and Jane Yaeger

**Excused:** Chris Viegut **Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director; Ben Steinbach, Parks and Recreation Maintenance Supervisor; Kelly Cassidy, Parks and Recreation Supervisor; Todd Zieglmeier, Gordon Adler, John Scheuer, Marsh 21 and Dale Pritzl, Chaparral Baseball.

**PR10-27** Motion by Yaeger, seconded by Baur to approve the minutes of the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion Carried** 6-0

**Public Comments:** Todd Zieglmeier, 808 East Cleveland Street, commented that he would like the Parks and Recreation Department to consider providing a location in one of the city parks where individuals and/or groups could enjoy a recreational fire. He has provided the Parks and Recreation Director with his ideas regarding what would be needed and is willing to work with a committee of individuals that might be interested in this type of activity.

The Committee agreed to hold the August meeting on Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup> with the starting time to be 5:30 p.m.

John Scheuer reviewed the plans for a proposed second batting cage in Steve J. Miller Recreation Area. It is estimated to cost between \$10,000 and \$11,000. It will be modeled after the existing batting cage at Jack Hackman Field. The new batting cage will be located in the grass area just west of the existing batting cage between the parking lot and the pedestrian/bicycle trail. The funding will be provided by Marsh 21, Chaparral Baseball, and the American Legion Baseball. Plans are to have the project completed yet this year.

**PR10-28** Motion by Buttke, seconded by Smith to approve the request contingent upon staff approval of final design and location.

**Motion Carried** 6-0

Englehart reviewed his recent decision not to fill the full time maintenance that came open due to a retirement. In an attempt to reduce the department's operational costs, staff is investigating alternatives to address the maintenance services that previously were provided by this position. With the reduced staffing level, the remaining fulltime maintenance staff will be required to work additional Sundays to perform the animal care at the zoo. The maintenance staff has indicated that they would prefer working 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. versus 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**PR10-29** Motion by Buttke, seconded by Yaeger to set the Wildwood Core Zoo hours on Sundays between October 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> to 7:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. to allow the Sunday zoo animal care to occur between 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Any extended zoo hours during this time period would be staffed by zoo attendants. .

**Motion Carried** 6-0

**Information Items** - Staff addressed questions and comments regarding the monthly report and updated the committee members regarding projects and their various areas of responsibility. Tom Oettiker presented the Zoo Society report.

**Committee Member Questions, Comments, and Suggestions:** A comment was made that some community band members have expressed a need for additional lighting to assist them in seeing their music. Englehart commented that discussions were held regarding additional lighting during the restoration planning process and it was agreed that the best way to address lighting for the band members was to have individual lights on their music stands. These could be battery powered or there are electrical outlets at the back of the stage. A suggestion was made to have the maintenance staff broom or clean the goose droppings from the sidewalks at the zoo prior to the Wild Wednesday programs. It was commented that they recently observed broken play equipment at both Wildwood Park and Griese Park and would hope that the maintenance staff that checks the parks each day would check playground equipment.

**Future Agenda Items:** Buttke indicated that he is interested in having an aluminum can deposit site at the zoo where individuals can donate their aluminum cans to the Zoological Society. He will present the idea to the Zoo Society at their July meeting, review with department staff and bring it back to the committee for consideration.

**Communications** - Englehart reviewed communications from individuals regarding Parks and Recreation operations he had received since the June meeting.

**PR10-30 Motion** by Yaeger, seconded by Buttke, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Ed Englehart, Parks and Recreation Director