

SUMMARY
DES MOINES PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
5:00 P.M. Tuesday, September 22, 2009
City Council Chambers, City Hall

The Des Moines Park and Recreation Board took the following action on items listed in the attached meeting agenda summary. Copies of resolutions may be obtained from the Park and Recreation Office 237-1403. Please refer to the five-digit resolution number when requesting information or copies. Any item requiring a roll call was taken by voice vote. For purposes of condensation, roll calls will only be broken down in the minutes when the actual vote was not unanimous.

#09-089 ROLL CALL

Present: Galloway, Jensen, Gelb, Ogle, Koenig-VandeHaar, Noland, George, Modersohn, Cahill, Krumrey, Scavo, Thornton, Murphy, Chen
Absent: Feltner

#09-090 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND/OR AMENDED

Motion by Jensen to approve agenda as printed
Seconded by Scavo
Motion carried

III. DISCUSSION AGENDA

#09-091 MINUTES

Minutes of August 25, 2009 Park and Recreation Board Meeting

Motion by Koenig-VandeHaar to receive and file the August 25, 2009 Park and Recreation Board meeting minutes
Seconded by Jensen
Motion carried

IV. REPORT OF PARK AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

- Ingersoll Bike lanes
Question last month on bike lanes, the council communication was distributed. The council approved bike lanes on Ingersoll Avenue, by reducing lanes from 5 to 3 lanes. Gary Fox, traffic and transportation, will be placed back on agenda if more information is needed. This item did not come before the board as it is a street improvement.
- Complete streets policy update
Richard Brown, Park Planner III, provided an update on complete streets policy. Complete streets policy was brought forward to look at streets differently as they were planned for vehicles, instead of looking at facilitating the moving of people. City Council adopted policy in 2008. Part of the policy was to create a complete street review team which includes city departments, and DART to implement. Southeast connector and Indianola project will include elements - bike lanes, sidewalks and bus pickup locations.
- Fort Des Moines Historic Preservation Plan
Mindy Moore, Park Planner II, stated we are in beginning stage of historic preservation for Fort Des Moines. Fort Des Moines is one of two national historic landmarks in the City. She provided a handout on historic highlights of Fort Des Moines. Fort Des Moines

is included in the SuperBlock Master plan. City of Des Moines owns a third of the buildings that will be covered in the study. Moore provided an overview of historic preservation plan. Consultants were hired to assess buildings, provide priorities and costs. Meetings will be held. Cost for the plan was \$70,000 and received two grants to help fund it.

Gelb asked if listed as a Historic landmark does that mean the buildings cannot be torn down as the superblock goes through its process. Moore stated it will make it difficult for demolition. The mission is to preserve history of buildings. Tripp invited anybody from the Board who may have an interest to be invited to the meetings.

Jensen suggested that people who lived in the Fort be involved in this project. Tripp requested Jensen to come to the first meeting for her background.

Krumrey asked if a 1912 picture of the Fort would be of interest. It was suggested that the Museum Curator contact party to receive the picture.

- Greenways
Brian Clark has agreed to serve as a facilitator for the committee.
- Sculpture Park
The fences are down. The dedication is this weekend.

FOR BOARD ACTION

#09-092

West River Drive

Doug Romig, Park Services Manager, advised this item was brought to the Board in August. Romig has been meeting with property owners on West River Drive and Second Avenue regarding the conceptual uses, between Center Street pedestrian bridge and University Avenue Bridge. Skate park committee representatives are present. Romig provided an overview of the project. Part of the plan is to close West River Drive at Illinois Avenue. Downtown Rotary is looking at a playground structure, a BMX park, a skate park, and dog park. In working with skate park committee, they wanted to move forward and find somewhere downtown. Preliminary presentations have been done to Plan and Zoning and Urban Design Review board. All boards, neighbors, neighborhood association and the Riverfront Development Authority have expressed support. Staff requests approval of the conceptual plan. No city monies are committed. Skate park committee will conduct private fundraising efforts for their facility.

Ogle asked cost estimate. Romig stated the trail cost would be minimal. Regional skate park committee's goal is to build a 65,000 sq ft facility that would be open 24-7 at an approximate cost of \$4-5M which would be comparable to BMX park. Tripp stated on conceptual plans cost estimates are not done.

Krumrey asked who is responsible for the liability on these facilities. The State of Iowa mitigates liability from municipalities. Jensen questioned the dog park component, don't have fencing but have access to the water. Romig stated in these types of development a brook would be built with a pump to pull ground water, or possibility a pond as a feature.

Jan Hill, 3801 Cottage Grove, thanked Park Board, is a member of the skate park design and steering committee and a mother of a skate boarder. Committee has

met regularly with skate boarders, and members of the city. This facility will provide something for all levels of skateboarders. It will be a destination park. Request to approve this site. She is confident that funds will be raised to build the park.

Scott Cleveland, junior Roosevelt High School, and is part of the skate park committee. This skate park would be huge for Des Moines.

Carl Cummings, 2847 SE 20th. He is a member of the skate park committee and is a skateboarder. Skate boarding is a \$1.2 billion sport with Des Moines being in the middle of U.S. Why don't we have a skate park?

**Motion by Jensen to approve the conceptual plan of West River Drive
Seconded by Koenig-VandeHaar**

Jensen has been on the agenda for a long time and this is overdue. Modersohn stated the skate boarders have been patient and feel this is the best location.

Gelb commented this is a fabulous use of land and very central with Riverwalk. This will bring more people downtown.

Cahill asked about mixed use of the skate park during the winter? It will be shoveled in the winter for the skateboarders.

Motion carried

#09-093

Alcohol usage at Western Gateway Park

Tripp requesting action for alcohol use in Western Gateway Park. Request to add Western Gateway Park as we are getting requests for alcohol usage. Will be selective as to how this is used but asking for approval to give Tripp the authority to issue permits.

**Motion by Gelb to approve alcohol usage at Western Gateway Park
Seconded by Jensen**

Ogle asked the procedure if someone is denied an alcohol permit. Tripp advised they would have the authority to appeal to the board.

Motion carried

RECEIVE AND FILE

#09-094

McHenry Park trail connection

Tripp requested a receive and file item this month with an action item in October. Army Corp wants to move forward to plan for levee project. A PowerPoint presentation is available, if needed. Tripp summarized the Birdland Levee project. The levee will be rebuilt to prevent future flood damage. During the course of the design, the City learned through Kiwanis Riverview Nature Island volunteers that it would be going through that park. A few months ago Corp advised they could use dirt at McHenry Park to build the levee. The use of dirt would remove vegetation and would not be a reason for us to consider into an agreement. As it went further, it was suggested to make a trail connection to McHenry and as it evolved would make a connection between Kiwanis and McHenry. Hired Terracon to research and invited everyone to the table to

discuss. After meeting with the groups, it is the recommendation to proceed with several qualifications. Your action next month is to develop an agreement with the Corp. We have received two letters of opposition – one from Audubon Society and one from a neighbor.

Goal tonight, is a public hearing on this and for the board to ask questions. In October we will ask for a decision.

James Quinn, 847 Oak Park Avenue, stated his family visits the park three or four times a week. When the levee was being discussed, the spur trail would be abandoned. When attending a neighborhood meeting to see the presentation of the proposal, he was delighted at the proposed trail. It is a sad loss of vegetation but removing brush will help with problems in the park and will provide access to Neal Smith trail. Request this project be moved forward.

Jensen commented this would add an amenity to the north side; it adds to the community.

Murphy asked what information we are waiting for. Tripp stated a letter had several questions that the engineers need to be contacted to research. The Audubon Society had questions on validity of the research on birds. Terracon has been asked to provide qualifications on their research. We will cut down trees, approximately 120, so need to be thoughtful and decide if that is the right thing to do. We will save as many trees as we can. We will meet with staff, and ask Marian Gelb to also meet, with a couple experts to talk through this.

Murphy agreed that something needs to happen in this area, improve the options for recreational opportunities.

**Motion by Jensen to receive and file McHenry Park trail connection
Seconded by Modersohn**

Ogle asked about body of water when you create the levee. Tripp the water is there. The engineers will provide an answer.

Noland would like to sit on the committee; Carol George also volunteered and Bob Modersohn.

Motion carried

Tripp any questions, e-mail them to him.

#09-095

Des Moines Baseball League

Luis Leon, 111 51st Street, Des Moines, Des Moines semi-pro baseball president. There are 120 baseball players in the league that was established in 1968. For the majority of the time the league has played at Birdland Field. In 2008, the field was devastated due to flood. For 2009 season, thanked the staff in repairing the field for play. With the levee being built will impede playing on field. Options - rebuild field, relocate to another park, or do nothing. The league for 2010 will probably not be able to use the field due to levee. Their approach is to go to small towns in a 30-mile radius and also contact Des Moines high

schools to schedule weekend day games. Future goal is to work with the City. Request the City to write a letter of recommendation to present to other cities to help establish new relationships. Would like the semi-pro baseball league be involved in planning for a future facility in Des Moines.

Murphy asked about high schools. Leon advised that it is limited as Hoover High School is the only one that has lights. They currently play Monday through Friday, at 7:00 under the lights at Birdland and weekends play day double hitters. Scheduling would be a problem.

Krumrey asked what the league is asking for. Leon is asking for assistance, if a committee is what it takes to plan for the future, that would be acceptable. For 2010 season a letter of recommendation would be helpful.

Scavo is there another facility to retrofit. Tripp stated there are options that are being looked at. Tripp suggested a committee be put together to solve this issue. Tripp asked if any board members want to work with Luis to find a solution. Dick Murphy, Dick Thornton, and Susan Koenig-VandeHaar volunteered.

Motion by Jensen to receive and file request
Seconded by George
Motion carried

#09-096

Volunteer Program Presentation

Callie Leau-Courtright, Park and Recreation Supervisor, provided a PowerPoint presentation on information on volunteer programs.

Krumrey stated he has a lot of ideas to get more people involved. Callie will contact Krumrey on ideas.

Koenig-VandeHaar asked if the PowerPoint presentation is given to service organizations throughout the city. Callie advised that we do present to organizations. Tripp thanked Callie. She deserves credit for having a very organized program.

Motion by Noland to receive and file volunteer program presentation
Seconded by Jensen
Motion carried

#09-097

Hartford Avenue corridor

Doug Romig, Park Services manager, stated this is a project with Pioneer Neighborhood Association. Romig highlighted some of the projects. After flooding last year, we have rebuilt the soccer fields. Another project came to the Board regarding the Archery Park. Has contacted the DNR and have drafted a development agreement for the Archery Park. The city provides the land, and DNR would built and manage the park. An Olympic Village concept is also being proposed. This would be used as a regional training facility for Olympics training center. There is a strong interest of the Neighborhood Association to develop a dog park in this area. Will also look at building more fields, and another amenity is to add campground space. Amenities needed for that type of operation are to hike, swim and fish. This facility augments all of those operations. There is discussion on doing private fundraising in order to move the dog park forward.

Koenig-VandeHaar questioned archery work with schools. Romig stated currently archery in the schools program are in the suburbs and a couple Des Moines middle schools and is trying to get in more Des Moines schools. She would like to see this program in Des Moines schools.

The DNR fisheries program has tested Cases Lake and nine different ponds throughout the park system and the Tai Dam area. A presentation was made to the Urban Conservation Committee. The DNR will fund half of the salary and benefits to help study watershed and fishery opportunities. Scavo is working with Neighborhood Association to try to raise private fundraising for Dog Park.

Motion by Jensen to receive and file Hartford Avenue corridor proposed project.

Koenig-VandeHaar

Motion carried

Report of Chair of Board and Committees

Scavo stated he is part of the zoo committee and would like to be notified of the meetings. Scavo suggested that the tennis courts be moved to West River Side Drive instead of the Dog Park. Scavo's objection to the West River Side Drive concept proposal was because of the dog park being too close to the one that is proposed on the south side. Tripp stated both dog parks would probably work.

#09-098

ADJOURNMENT