

Medina Park Commission Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2013

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The Park Commission of Medina, Minnesota met in special session jointly with the City Council on May 21, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. Chair Jaeb presided.

I. Call to Order

Commissioners present: Paul Jaeb, Ellis Olkon, Madeleine Linck, Ann Thies, Dino DesLauriers and Janet White

Commissioners absent: Steve Lee

Also present: City Administrator Scott Johnson, Assistant to City Administrator Jodi Gallup, Public Works Director Steve Scherer, City Planner Dusty Finke and the Medina City Council

II. Park & Trail Master Plan Presentation & Discussion

Jaeb stated that the Park Commission embarked on creating this plan in 2012 to better guide and manage the current system and more effectively plan for future growth. He indicated that over the course of the last year, the Park Commission has assessed our current inventory, brought in experts to provide park planning insight, created subcommittees, and looked at numerous examples of park and trail master plans from cities of similar size and nature across the country.

Jaeb briefly introduced each section of the plan including the goals, objectives, design standards, development policies, and existing facility inventory.

City Planner Finke described the Future Facility Planning Map, which shows existing and future home sites, existing and two potential future park locations, and existing and planned trails. The existing and planned parks have a highlighted area around them within ½ mile in red and 1 mile in tan to illustrate the radius of residents these parks will serve.

Thies introduced the Trail Plan that was updated by a subcommittee of the Park Commission. She noted that a number of the trails on the plan were along roads, but one of the goals of the subcommittee was to create off road trails that go cross country near high quality natural areas such as the proposed trail (numbers 28, 29 & 30 on the map) that connects Baker Park Reserve to Wolsfeld Woods SNA.

Thies highlighted a few other trails and explained the surface types for each trail.

City Council Member Pederson questioned if the City knew of any proposed parks or trails in Corcoran near their new proposed developments. No one knew of anything proposed at this time, but there was a general consensus that the Park Commission should annually review what Medina's surrounding cities are planning for parks and trails.

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City Council Member Anderson questioned if there would be any benefit to reach out to Three Rivers Park District annually to hold joint meetings to discuss park and trail planning. It was noted that a representative from Three Rivers Park District had attended a Park Commission meeting in 2012 and the City has worked with our previous representative Sara Wyatt to address issues such as adequate horse trailer parking at Baker Park Reserve.

Finke explained the construction cost and maintenance cost analysis documents that were included in the plan. He noted that to build out all of the planned infrastructure in the plan, it would cost roughly \$18.5 million dollars. He also noted that when the entire city is built out according to the current comprehensive plan, the city will receive approximately \$14.7 million dollars in Park Dedication funds. This will happen over the next 20 to 30 years, but the cost estimates were made using today's dollars.

Discussion took place on the likelihood of all the trails in the plan being acquired and built. It was guessed that maybe 70% of these trails would be built, which would save some park dedication dollars.

City Council Member Martin questioned if the Park Dedication fee could be raised and how Medina's fee compares with surrounding cities?

Finke stated that in the past it would have been hard to justify raising the Park Dedication fee, but this study could justify a fee increase. He also noted that Medina's Park Dedication fee was slightly lower than surrounding cities, but Medina's sewer and water connection fees were much higher than surrounding cities.

It was noted that an annual review of the cost analysis documents should be completed based on the current construction rates and planned improvements.

The City Council complimented the Park Commission on the time and detail that went into creating this plan. It was noted that the City Council would be providing their individual comments to the Park Commission for further discussion and incorporation into the plan.

III. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jodi Gallup.