

UNAPPROVED

CITY OF BLAINE PARK ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, February 26, 2013 7:00 p.m.

The Blaine Park Advisory Board met in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, February 26, 2013.

1. Chair Bird called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Commissioners Das, Langenfeld, Leathers, Markle, Schwarz, and Chair Bird.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Jim Kappelhoff, Park and Recreation Director, Nate Monahan, Program Supervisor, and Tom Godfrey, Program Supervisor.

Guest: Tom Newland

3. Approval of Minutes: January 22, 2013

Motion by Commissioner Leathers to approve the minutes of January 22, 2013 as amended. Motion seconded by Commissioner Langenfeld. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

None.

5. New Business

5.1 Honoring Chairman Jerry Walthour

Park Supervisor Monahan stated Chairman Jerry Walthour passed away on February 7th. Park Board and Staff would be speaking about the incredible impact Chairman Walthour had on the Park Board.

Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff stated two weeks ago Chairman Walthour passed away. He gave his sympathies to Mr. Walthour's family. He stated he knew Mr. Walthour when Mr. Walthour was a volunteer and coach in the mid to late 90's. Mr. Walthour was a fun person to be around and he was interesting to watch when he was around the kids. He was a good teach and educator. Whatever Mr. Walthour did, he put his heart into it. For the past six years as Chairman Mr. Walthour was always enthusiastic about it and it was his passion. He indicated Mr. Walthour was very proud of what he was doing, but at the same time, he had a great sense of humor. He noted Mr. Walthour was a good friend of both him and the Park Board. He stated Mr. Walthour had a passion and what he did for the community was what made what this Park Board today. He stated will certainly miss Mr. Walthour and will remember him as a true friend. He asked if any Board members wanted to speak.

Chair Bird stated he had known Jerry since he came back on the Board six years ago and Mr. Walthour had given the citizens and the youth of Blaine over a quarter century of his time. He indicated Mr. Walthour had a passion for everything. Mr. Walthour was always at the City events and genuinely concerned about everyone. He stated Mr. Walthour also had a great sense of humor. He indicated Mr. Walthour left us way too early and he sent his condolences to Sue and the kids. He stated Mr. Walthour would be missed and it would be a hard legacy to live up to.

Commissioner Leathers echoed the same comments. He indicated Mr. Walthour's comments were all over the City. Since Chairman Leathers had been on the Board, Mr. Walthour had been on the Board and he learned a lot from him and the Board owed a great deal to Mr. Walthour. He indicated Mr. Walthour was very conservative, more than he was, but the reason they got a lot of things done was because of Mr. Walthour and he hoped the Board could carry on his legacy.

Commissioner Markle agreed with what had been said and stated Mr. Walthour would be missed. He indicated Mr. Walthour was a good

servant of the City of Blaine and he kept the Board going in a good direction. He stated Mr. Walthour had a long history of excellence and good humor. He indicated Mr. Walthour kept the Board centered and brought them back in if they went off the track. He stated Mr. Walthour was a great leader and would be missed. He noted Mr. Walthour had a great history of support, care, and excellence. He stated Mr. Walthour cared about everyone and he would be missed.

Chair Bird stated Mr. Walthour was certainly going to be missed and was confident he would be with the Board one way or another.

5.2 Staff Report on 2012 Fall Recreation Programs

Program Supervisor Monahan stated Program Supervisor Godfrey would present the 2012 Fall Recreation Program.

Program Supervisor Godfrey, presented a Summary of the 2012 Fall Recreation Programs.

He stated the staff included: Jim Kappelhoff, Director; Ann Genosky, Senior Center Coordinator; Tom Godrey, Program Supervisor; Diane Heitkamp, Secretary; Shelley Johnson, Senior Center Director; Jerome Krieger, Program Supervisor; and Nate Monahan, Program Supervisor.

He noted the biggest community event was the 5th Annual World Fest with over 1,200 in attendance which took place on Saturday, September 15 at Town Square Park. He indicated the event had free entertainment and activities for everyone.

He stated the following restaurants were in attendance: Acapulco, Chili's, China Inn, Dixie Blue BarBQue, Dosa King, Glockenspiel/Deutschland Meats, JJ Murphy's Irish Pub – Blaine, & Umbria Pizza. He indicated they charged \$5.00 for a set of eight tickets to use at participating food vendors.

He noted there was a variety of entertainment including Chinese dance, Mexican dance, Drill & Drum Team, Appalachian Clog, and Latin Dance/Afro Caribbean.

He stated they also had interactive/cultural booths which included IAsian Language Institute, AFS, Anoka County Health, Chinese Heritage Foundation Friends, Cilongo Foundation, Emma B. Howe Family YMCA, Guatemalan Exhibit, Hawaii NailSpa, Hmong Folk Art, Inc., Phancy Face Painting, Airbrushing...Plus, and Tarkanfi – Start Walking.

He noted they also had great support from local businesses including \$3,640 from local business sponsors - Target who donated water and volunteers to the event, and Wal-Mart donated all of the pop. Snapple also served free samples of their products. He stated they also received a \$3,000 grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council.

He stated for the third consecutive year they held an essay contest for kids ages 10-15 on the importance of diversity in their community.

He stated they also had the 11th Winter Holiday Celebration in which there were over 750 people in attendance. There were free activities for all including crafts, Hayrides (3rd year and very popular), coloring contest, bingo, refreshments, marshmallow roast, visit from Santa, and Holiday Music (Our Saviors Lutheran Church, DaVinci Academy Chamber Choir & Blaine High School Chamber Orchestra).

He stated the Sounds of the City Free Indoor Concerts during the months of October & November brought in over 150 people with performances by Joe Meyer Finesse Bank & Stomp N' Dixie.

He reviewed the Youth Programs including 55 youth/teens classes and event offered with 855 participants. The youth/teen programs include: Arts & crafts, dance, drama, music and guitar lessons, science and nature, tae kwon do, field trips, teen events, tumbling/gymnastics, and after school programs.

He stated the Park and Recreation has partnered with a few different dance and fitness facilities in the City in order to offer more programs. They used QC Dance Studio to offer youth dance classes and exercise/activity type classes. Park and Recreation also partnered with Perpetual Motion Gymnastics to offer tumbling and beginner gymnastics classes.

He noted the following events: Morning at the North Pole, which was full both Saturdays it was offered with 200 kids and over 400 people in attendance including parents. Events were held in the Atrium at City Hall. The Flashlight Pumpkin Hunt and Family Dance was held at Aquatore Park where 190 kids ages 10 and under and 210 adults attended. The Barnyard Boogie which was also held at Aquatore Park was attended by 81 kids ages 8 and under. The Princess Party was attended by 173 kids ages 8 and under, and 200 adults. This event was held at Blaine City Hall.

He summarized the adult programs and athletics including 38 classes/Programs with 1275 participants. He noted Moms on the Run was a very popular adult program with 37 registered last Fall. The adult programs include: Dance classes, art classes, day outings, CPR, first aid, fitness classes, belly dancing, Jazzercise, Moms on the Run, Pilates, Yoga & Zumba. The Park and Recreation had combined with facilities such as: QC Dance Studio and Heat Yoga, to offer health/fitness classes and dance classes.

For adult athletics, he stated softball, kickball, football, and basketball were offered with 54 softball teams, 13 kickball teams, 5 football teams, and 6 basketball teams.

He summarized the Senior programs which include 4,506 senior who participated in activities on the fall, 654 participated in a special event, and 520 in educational programs. 3,300 meals were also served during the fall months. The Halloween Party was one of the most highly attended events with 160 people attending. The 30-year Senior Center Anniversary event drew 110 people.

He stated popular fall special events included birthday parties, casino trips (St. Croix Casino, Turtle Lake, and Treasure Island), outings, cribbage tournament, VOA Thanksgiving and Christmas Meals, Halloween Party, jewelry sale, New Year's party, the Jug Band/Kitchen Band, Oktoberfest Weekly Activities, and McKinley Elementary School Choir. He indicated the always popular Monthly Birthday Parties from September through December averaged 136 participants. New classes and programs in the Fall of 2012 included: CPR Basics, nutrition program, the Jug Band – Kitchen Band, Making

Memories from your Stuff, and the Senior Center was a polling place for elections with over 1200 voters.

He indicated the Blaine Park and Recreation facility use in included 8 parks Aquatore, Aurelia, Blaine Soccer Complex, Jim Peterson Athletic Complexes, Sunnyside, Happy Acres, Town Square Park, Blaine Baseball Complexes/Miracle League Field, & Airport Park). There was also the Blaine City Hall, Victory Links Clubhouse, and Schwan's Super Rink Dance Studio used along with three schools, Fire Station numbers 3 and 4, and 4 private facilities.

He indicated for soccer/football field use, they had 124 soccer teams (94 Rec Teams and 30 competitive, which was up 9 teams from last year); 419 games for soccer (up 29 from last year); 1,656 soccer practices (up 370 from last year); 28 adult football games; 278 youth football games. For softball, he noted there were 320 adult softball games and 82 adult kickball games.

For community facility use, he indicated the following parks facilities were used: Aquatore, Aurelia, Blaine Baseball Complex, Blaine Soccer Complexes, Happy Acres, Jim Peterson Athletic Complex, Lake Side Commons Park, Sunnyside, & Town Square Park

Chair Bird stated he was always amazed at the effort that went in by staff to make the programs a success and they were all doing a wonderful job as the programs continued to grow and exciting new things were being added. He thanked staff for all of their hard work.

Commissioner Das stated one thing he has noticed was that more people were coming to the events and were enjoying it. He stated in his conversations with people, they were very happy with the events.

Commissioner Leather noted he had kids in these age groups that used these programs and he thanked staff for these programs. He stated it was a great opportunity for his kids to try a lot of different activities. He thanked staff for all of their work. He asked if they were seeing more people at the events and activities and if so was the attendance substantial. Program Supervisor Monahan responded programs, events, and facilities use had increased a lot.

Commissioner Leather asked what did staff need from a facilities standpoint. Did they need more fields, more buildings, etc. He asked what did staff see out there. Program Supervisor Monahan replied as far as programs were concerned, they were combining with facilities in the City to offer more programming. He noted indoor space was limited and more indoor space was needed.

5.3 Recommendation of Legacy Creek Park

Program Supervisor Monahan noted new bids were advertised and due February 12, 2013. The bids had been reviewed and the low bid was Peterson Companies at \$121,505.42 which came in under the \$125,000 budget. Peterson Companies had previously built Jim Peterson Park back in 2009. Staff was recommending the Park Board approve the bid to the City Council.

He stated playground equipment and site furnishings were purchased and delivered.

He indicated the timeline for Legacy Creek Park was that park construction would begin May 1, 2013 with completion by July 31, 2013.

Chair Bird stated he was sure the people who lived by this park would be happy to see this. He asked if any amenities or trails had been changed. Program Supervisor Monahan stated they had not. He noted everything was the same. He indicated the budget was \$88,000, but the budget was increased due to the bids to \$125,000.00.

Chair Bird asked if the neighborhood would be informed that there was an anticipated start date for this park. Program Supervisor Monahan responded staff could send out a letter to the existing neighborhood. He also noted he has received calls and people had come in asking for an update.

Commissioner Das asked if the previous contractor bid and rebid. Program Supervisor Monahan responded they had rebid.

Commissioner Das inquired about the contingency amount. Program Supervisor Monahan responded that had been done as a matter of procedure to cover any overages.

Commissioner Leathers asked if \$125,000.00 was in the CIP, so if they used the contingency they would come in over budget. He asked if they needed to amend the CIP or would the motion take care of this. Program Supervisor Monahan replied the CIP would need to be brought back for review and updating probably in March.

Commissioner Leathers noted he did not believe this was substantially out of budget.

Motion by Commissioner Leathers to recommend to the City Council to approve the Legacy Creek Park Improvement Bid to Peterson Companies in the amount of \$121,505.42, plus a five percent contingency to bring the total budget to \$127,580.00. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lagerfeld.

Motion approved unanimously.

5.4 Fillmore Park Feature

Program Supervisor Monahan presented a background and summary of Fillmore Park.

Chair Bird stated it was always an opportunity to hear about a park and it was enjoyable for them.

6. **Other Business**

A. Spring Egg Hunt

Program Supervisor Monahan noted the Spring Egg Hunt would be Saturday, March 23 at 10:00 a.m. at Airport Park. He welcomed everyone to attend the hunt. He stated this was a fun and quick event.

Program Supervisor Monahan stated Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff had two days left before he left the City.

Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff stated 29 years with the City of Blaine had gone by like a minute. As he reflected back on what “we” have done with the City of Blaine, he believed it was all inclusive. He stated for the past six years he had taken over for former Park and Recreation Director Jim Peterson. He stated he would miss his position considerably and he was proud of the City and the Park Board. He noted they had protocol, but with “flair.” They had seriousness, but with humor and everything worked together. He thanked all of the past Chair people. He stated he watched the City grow from sod fields to a family area and it was astonishing how much the City had grown over the past 29 years. He thanked his staff for all of their hard work and after he left, his position would be left in their capable hands. He invited the Board to attend his reception on Thursday from 2-4 p.m. at City Hall with happy hour following at Be Bops.

Chair Bird stated 29 years was virtually impossible to replace with the amount of experience Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff had. He stated he was confident the staff would be able to pick up where Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff left off. He indicated he was on the Board when former Park and Recreation Director Jim Peterson had left and he wondered how the transition would go, but the transition was smooth and he felt confident from the first time he sat down with Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff that he would be able to take all of the responsibilities. He stated he enjoyed his time of the Board working with Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff. He thanked him for everything he did for the City. He stated Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff had done a wonderful job with the City. He stated the programs and parks they had were a direct dedication to Park and Recreation Kappelhoff’s hard work.

Commissioner Leathers stated replacing former Park and Recreation Director Jim Peterson was not an easy task, but Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff did it with a great amount of grace and the transition was seamless. He stated the Board appreciated that transition and it helped them tremendously. He

stated Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff played a role in creating a wonderful City and a fantastic place to live. He stated Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff played an enormous role in creating a premier park with a beach. He stated he appreciated Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff and all he did for the City.

Commissioner Markle echoed the Board's thanks. He stated Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff helped, advised, and kept them in line. He appreciated the advocacy role Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff played and the sense of calm he brought to the meetings at times when they were a bit rambunctious. He appreciated Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff's ability to answer the tough questions and he appreciated his efforts. He asked Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff if he would entertain the possibility of coming back in the summer for the tour to drive the short bus for them as he was already trained in.

Commissioner Das thanked Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff on behalf of the City, himself, and his family. He stated before he joined the Park Board, he did not realize how much work everything entailed. He stated Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff always answered everything with patience and was always smiling.

Commissioner Schwartz stated while his time was short on the Park Board, he thanked Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff for his interview and what it meant to be a Park Board member. He stated he had lived in the City for 8 years and it was not the house that made him move to the City, but it was the parks and recreation that made a difference. He thanked him for Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff for his service.

Commissioner Langenfeld thanked Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff and stated the City owed him a lot. He stated he had been a member of the City since 1977 and the City had made tremendous changes.

Tom Newland, Blaine off of Elmo Court, former Park Board member, stated he was here for Park and Recreation Director Kappelhoff's first meeting and he thought it fitting to show up at his last meeting also. He thanked him for all of his service to the City.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Leathers motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Langenfeld seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Chair Bird adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Altman
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.