

CITY OF BURTON
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2012, 5:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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Councilman Vaughn Smith called the Special Council Meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: O'Keefe, Ellenburg, Heffner, Smith and Wells.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Haskins and Martinbianco.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor P. Zelenko, B. Bigsby and M. Snow, Clerk's Office.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Discussion and possible action to approve the 2012 5-Year Parks & Recreation Plan.

PRESENTATION:

Mayor Zelenko thanked the Council for attending this meeting.

Lisa Easterwood of Fleis and Vandenbrink said since the last Council meeting on January 16th there have been a few updates to the plan. Under community description they added under the school districts the history of Atherton school and updated the housing overview with more current information. The population projections were updated through the County Planning Commission from 3 years ago as well as the disability data. Under goals and objectives they added the map for Kelly Lake. The existing wetland was shown to the west of the property along with the pathway, restroom and pavilion. The proposed plan is a boardwalk that would include a wetland overlook and a fishing pier that would run in between the wetland and the lake. Benches are shown along the wetland and a tree buffer along the north side of the wetlands along I-69. She shows 5 exercise stations along the existing pathway on the east side as well as improving the rustic trail along the east side of the lake to either a paved or wider pathway to make it more accessible. They are striving for universal access with all the improvements, which would be barrier free access to all users with disabilities. Under the action program they restructured it to be less aggressive and stretched out the projects to make it easier on the budget for the City. They left the general maintenance on a yearly basis. On February 27, 2012 the County Planning Commission approved the draft plan and on February 8, 2012 the Parks and Recreation Commission made a recommendation to Council to approve the 2012 Parks and Recreation Plan.

Mrs. Ellenburg asked approximately how large the loop is.

Ms. Easterwood says it is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile or 3,100 linear ft. around the wetland.

Mr. Smith said if you start by Gilkey Creek, go along the expressway around the wetlands and back to the pavilion it is 1 mile.

Ms. Easterwood said she was referring to the proposed pathway around the wetlands. She expects walkers and joggers on the pathways more than bicycles. It will be more of a slow speed trail with the curves. We may want to make it more narrow than normal because of the proximity of the wetlands. She is not aware of any ADA issues at this point.

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Mr. Smith asked the surface type of the pathways.

Ms. Easterwood said the DNR would allow an aggregate surface with a stabilizer, which is much cheaper and is still considered to have universal access. The width would not have to be the typical 10 ft. wide. According to the DNR it needs to be wide enough to have 2-way traffic, particularly with wheel chairs. Based on the linear scale there is about 600 linear feet in the between each exercise station.

Ms. Easterwood said the Commission felt that focusing on improvements to this park would be more beneficial and highly regarded to the community. This was also the most used park in the City and received the most comments for improvements. With the Burton City Park, one big component was an amphitheater and a DNR trust fund. Both of these improvements fall in line with the goals of the DNR grant application in terms of outdoor recreation with fishing and viewing nature.

Mrs. Ellenburg commended Ms. Easterwood and her company because this improvement will bring a lot of people to our City and she is glad they chose Kelly Lake because residents who go there always thinks the park is not finished and doing this project will make it complete.

Mr. Smith said this allows us to market Burton relative to surrounding Cities.

Mrs. Ellenburg asked the Mayor if we could advertise the Park through MDOT signs on I-69.

Mayor Zelenko said we could certainly try. She said there are blue boards on the expressway that facilities are able to buy into.

Ms. Easterwood said Bette Bigsby attended the last SAGE meeting to present this plan as a way to get support. Because of that presentation by Bette, she received 2 letters of support and the Disability Network that sits on that Board said they would also be providing a letter of support.

Mr. O'Keefe complimented the work done on the study but he would like to see the different organizations and individuals in the community jump on this and get the job done. He is concerned about the water levels washing out the pathways in the spring.

Mr. Heffner said that is why we need a topography done to know where the wetlands begin and end.

Mrs. Ellenburg asked if they could have wood over the wetlands for maintenance.

Ms. Easterwood said a boardwalk is being proposed over the wetlands. It is very costly though to run it around the entire wetlands.

Mr. Heffner said the wetlands are 4-5 ft. lower than the road so we should be ok on that and that this fishing pier will be the key to completion.

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Mr. Smith read a letter of support from State representative Charles Smiley, which also stated his accomplishments with the park.

Mr. Wells said he is supportive of this project.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Ramona Miron, 2288 S. Term, said Lowe's is excited about the project and is willing to help. She is trying to get donations for the project as well.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Heffner thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Mr. Wells said it would save a lot of money if we had donations for the boardwalk.

COUNCIL ACTION:

Wells moved and O'Keefe seconded the following motion:

1. Approve and authorize the 2012 5-Year Parks & Recreation Plan.
Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 5:40 p.m.

Mayor Zelenko suggested the Board amend the motion to reflect that Council approved the Parks and Recreation Plan by approving the resolution.

Wells moved and O'Keefe seconded the following motion:

2. Approve and authorize the resolution for the 2012 5-Year Parks & Recreation Plan.
Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

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