

CITY OF BURTON
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 1997/4:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Meeting was called to order by Robert Walls, Vice-Chairperson, at 4:10 P.M.

Members Present: Blundell, Hodgeson, Hindes, Foutch, Kallin, Walls, and Manzardo.

Members Absent: Zelenko, McLemore, Waterson and Crawford.

Others Present: J. Major, DPW Director; Keith Cheli, Project Engineer, Rowe Engineering and C. Ladd, Deputy City Clerk.

Hindes moved and Hodgeson seconded the following motion:

Approve and authorize the minutes of the Meeting of December 3, 1997 at 4:00 P.M., as printed.
Motion carried 7-0.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: List of Park Facilities to be considered (immediate & future needs)
Rowe Engineering agenda items as required.
Any other business or discussion germane to commission business.

PRESENTATION:

Keith Cheli reviewed the events from the last meeting. He said at the last meeting, a draft was requested for a recreation survey. This should be mailed out as soon as possible. Once the results are in, we ask that the Commission summarize the survey to help keep our costs at the same level as proposed. We are interested in the method used for the survey. If the schools are going to take part in the survey process, possibly the class officers could be involved. We are looking for some type of tabulation of the results.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

None.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Mr. Blundell asked if Mr. Cheli wanted the surveys returned, as well as the tabulation.

Mr. Cheli said yes, it would be a good idea. After the results are in, you will individually be able to bring back comments from your target groups. The sooner we get results back, the better off we will be. We might be able to uncover items that we have not yet had discussions about. We should have a target date of January 14th to get all the results.

Discussion was held on how and where to get the surveys to the public. Several suggestions were made, such as taking them to churches, schools and the mall.

Mr. Hindes asked if there had been any feedback on the size of the parks.

Mr. Cheli said it is the Commission's responsibility to determine the size of the park.

Mrs. Manzardo said she thinks of a small park as one with flowers and flags.

Mr. Walls said it is important that we have the people's opinion on the size of the parks. No matter what survey is given to the public, it will be impossible to cover every issue concerning the parks.

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Mr. Cheli said there is no need to have a massive mail out, just the targeted groups.

Mrs. Manzardo said she tried to set up at Courtland Center and was refused by the mall management. She said she had planned to be in there early and be done before the stores opened at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Cheli said the Commission could submit two 5-year Capitol Improvement schedules. One that would make some recognizable impacts in a short period of time and another to make improvements in Kelly Lake, Thread Creek Corridor or trail improvements. These are all high candidates for a grant application. Possibly a budget could be presented to Council for their approval. He said the recreation needs seems to be the thing to bring the community together.

Mr. Foutch said the schools are the focal point of the community.

Mr. Cheli said it makes sense to use the schools when planning the parks. Residents like to stay within their own boundaries.

Mrs. Hodgeson said she has concerns about whether families with small children would be able to utilize the schools equipment during the day when school is in session.

Mr. Blundell said there is also a concern about the parking lot being located so far from the athletic fields. This could be a problem for the senior citizens to be able to walk that far when watching the children who are participating in the sporting events. He said he thinks a small park should be built and then continue to build towards a larger one.

Mr. Walls asked if the Davison Road park was still available for purchase. This may be a good place to start as there would be an activity for both winter and summer.

Mr. Major said the park is still available.

Mr. Walls asked if the State would give any money for this park. Mr. Cheli said there is a possibility they would.

Mrs. Manzardo inquired about getting a list of the Burton businesses. She was advised that the Assessor's Office may have a list available. Mrs. Manzardo said possibly they could ask some of the businesses to make a donation of different items rather than a dollar amount.

Mr. Major said when people donate money towards a park, their next concern is how it would be kept up.

Mr. Cheli said we don't want to always ask for donations. There is a need for a commitment from the City and Commission, or both. We also need the support of the people.

Mr. Hindes and Mrs. Kallin left the meeting at 5:00 P.M.

Mr. Walls said with the two members leaving, there is no longer a quorum of the Board. Therefore, no action can be taken, but discussion can be held.

Mrs. Hodgeson suggested that at the old Veteran's Memorial Park, there could be a sign with the City's motto, population, future projects, etc. This could be used for general information.

Discussion was held concerning the source of funding.
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Mr. Major said possibly the Council Members could be invited, a couple at a time, to the Parks and Recreation Meetings to see if they would be willing to commit to funding. They need to be given a plan of what the Board is attempting to do.

Mr. Foutch said there needs to be some type of director to carry out the recreation program. He suggested possibly even a college intern or someone who can coordinate the plan.

Mr. Cheli said the director would have to be provided for through the funding. This person needs to be someone who knows how to maintain the parks.

Mr. Walls said the surveys are to be returned and calculated by January 14th. This has to be done prior to Council attending our meetings.

Mr. Cheli said his company would try to attend as many meetings as often as possible. He said a draft of the plan should be sent to the State by the end of next month. We should have a rough draft at the next meeting. The Commission needs to figure out which sites to focus on. It should be something visible such as a play structure. Some of the play equipment at the schools is dated and needs to be replaced. You need to decide which school sites get more use and what kind of improvements would be appropriate so Parks and Recreation gets the recognition.

Mr. Foutch asked when the City does next year's budget.

Mr. Major said in January, Council does a mid-year review and it may be a good idea for several members of the Parks and Recreation to be there and be visible.

Mr. Cheli reviewed the potential priorities for the next five (5) years:

- basic improvements
- complimentary improvements
- school facilities
- 3 focused sites
- impact on Kelly Lake

Mr. Cheli said it's necessary to set up a specific 5-year capitol improvement schedule. If the grant application can't be done, then it stymies for years two (2) and three (3). If you set up the two 5-year plans to approach Council with and receive funding, then anything you receive from the State would be a bonus. If we make good progress at the next meeting, we will be more prepared on January 14th.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR ACTIONS:

Mr. Walls said no action would be taken at this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC/AAE
Deputy City Clerk