

CITY OF BURTON
PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 14, 2011, 5:00PM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim Craig.

The Parks and Recreation Meeting was called to order by Steven Heffner at 5:07 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig, Adams, Bigsby, Heffner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dunsmore, Bauldry

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Paula Zelenko, J. Anderson, Clerk's Office

Lisa Easterwood stated having a strong Parks and Recreation system is vital to the public's mental health, physical health, economic growth, protection of natural resources and social interaction. A master plan is essential to identifying goals and objectives and is the first step in creating cohesive and sustainable park systems. The information they are currently gathering will be used by the commission to determine goals and objectives and develop a capital improvement plan to implement those goals. The next step includes seeking out funds. Ms. Easterwood stated that in 2008-2009 the City of Burton received assistance from U of M Outreach, and the Center for Applied Environmental Research. There were some things done to create a 2009 Parks and Recreation Plan, but the process was not completed. She stated they want to consider the differences between passive and active recreation and the projects that are highly regarded for funding include those that protect the natural resources and open space, connect recreation areas both locally and regionally, provide universal access, where ADA standards are implemented into a project that take all disabilities into account. Plans that fall within regional plans are also considered.

Vick Lucas-Abbotts stated the funding comes from multiple sources. There are many special interest groups that fund different types of projects. The funding just dropped for the MDNR trust fund this year, from \$550,000 to \$300,000 per applicant. With a trust fund you make an application on April 1 with an approved plan, which is not required. The ultimate funding comes at the end of November and construction wouldn't be able to begin until the following year. Delmac, SAGE, Kellogg, and The Mott Foundation have many funds that they give out. When applying for grants you have to show flexibility in the plan and should concentrate on "connect-ability." It is possible to combine funds, but not normally two federal resources.

Lisa Easterwood led the group in the Planning exercises. She showed a map containing all the city owned properties, as well as all the current parks. She stated that there are different types of parks, including mini pocket parks, which serve a quarter mile radius and are less than an acre in size. There are neighborhood parks, which serve larger neighborhoods and are five to ten acres in size. School parks are located on school property. A community park serves about a three mile radius and about thirty to fifty acres in size. A sports complex can be no smaller than twenty-five acres. The natural resources and green-ways, which remain natural and vary in size, serve as connectors. She asked everyone to place a green dot on the map on a city owned property where they would most like to see a new park. She also asked them to circle the amenities they would like to see at the new park. She then asked everyone to place a green dot next to the proposed pathway routes they feel are most important. She also asked everyone to identify which open space/green-ways they feel are most worthy of protecting and potentially using for recreation.

Vick Lucas-Abbotts explained there are many grants available for such projects.

Ms. Easterwood stated there were about one hundred responses to the survey. Kelly Lake park was the most visited park, as well as For Mar and school playgrounds. Walking rated number one and bicycling

PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 14, 2011 / 5:00PM
PAGE 2

rated number two on favorite activities. The number one reason for people not getting involved in recreational activities was because they did not have sidewalks or pathways near their homes. People would like to see better maintenance and more beautification, as well as a play scape at Kelly Lake. Pathways and green-ways rated the highest among the amenities people would like to see at a new facility. Nature and walking trails rated the highest of what trails people would like to see. The establishment of more pocket parks, as well as kids walking safely to school were high on the list of what the residents want. Ms. Easterwood stated they need time to put together a plan, and determine where the focus for the pathways is going to be, as well as the goals of the plan. She explained the importance of a marketing plan to make the community aware of the parks that are available.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

None.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION ACTION:

The next meeting will be held at on December 21, 2011 at 5:30 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

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