

URBANDALE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

JANUARY 20, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated protocols, the Urbandale Parks and Recreation Commission met in regular session as a virtual meeting on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, beginning at 5:30 P.M., via WebEx Meeting Rooms.

Members answering roll call were Bewyer, Devine, Richardson, Hutchison, Rowley. Others attending were: Jan Herke and Kevin James from the Park & Recreation Department and A.J. Johnson, Urbandale City Manager. Also attending were Kurtis Wolgast with ASK Studios and Eric Beron and Dan Vlock from DLR Group.

Devine called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and read the Character Counts statement. The first item on the agenda was the approval of the December 16, 2020, minutes. Bewyer moved to approve the minutes and Rowley seconded the motion. On roll call: Ayes: Bewyer, Rowley, Richardson, Devine. Nays: none. Passes: Hutchison. Motion carried.

Parkin arrived at the meeting.

The next item on the agenda was Review design plans for the Walnut Creek Regional Park Large Open Shelter. At its meeting on January 12, 2021, the City Council approved the 2021-2025+ Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget. Included in that budget was the construction of a large open shelter in the Walnut Creek Regional Park (WCRP.) Estimated cost for the shelter is \$425,000.

This large open shelter project was initially planned for construction in 2015, and went through the initial design process. At that time however, bids for the widening of 156th Street north of Meredith Drive came in extremely high, and the large shelter project was postponed in order to fund that street project.

In 2020, a 100-car parking lot was constructed in the WCRP next to the site where the large open shelter will be constructed. Utilities were also brought to the site in preparation for the shelter construction in 2021.

The architect for the project, ASK Studios, has updated the design and bid documents for the open shelter, and we anticipate to bid out the project in February, 2021. The shelter will be 64 ft. x 50 ft. (tapering down to 35 ft.) in size, and include flushable restrooms, a water fountain, electrical outlets and a serving counter. It will be large enough to accommodate up to 100 people and will have 12 picnic tables. Staff recommends approval. Discussion followed.

Hutchison moved to approve staff recommendation and Parkin seconded the motion. On roll call: Ayes: Hutchison, Parkin, Richardson, Bewyer, Rowley, Devine. Nays: none. Passes: none. Motion carried.

The next item was UCSD – Valerius Elementary Reconstruction Project. Valerius Elementary School is located at 3305 92nd Street in Urbandale, immediately south of Walker Johnston Park. The Urbandale Community School District (UCSD) plans to demolish this school after the end of the current school year, and a new school will be built on that site.

In the past year, representatives from the Urbandale Community School District (UCSD) met with City of Urbandale staff to discuss the reconstruction plans for Valerius Elementary School. Discussions related to site plans and options for expanding parking, and if there was a possibility to use a small portion of Walker Johnston Park for this expansion.

Looking for ways the Valerius School project might benefit the City, staff proposed to the UCSD to consider constructing an open play field on the site, which could be used by both the school district and City. The engineer for the Valerius School project, DLR Engineering, recently completed a preliminary site drawing, showing the proposed site plans for the project. These plans include the expansion of the parking lot on park property, as well as the proposed 120 ft. x 250 ft. play field. The area of parkland requested for the parking lot is approximately 130 ft. x 270 ft. in size.

The UCSD has requested that the City consider the proposed site plans, and approve the use of park property for the parking lot expansion. Staff is supportive of this request by the UCSD, as the additional parking would be a benefit for park users as well. Staff recommends approval of the UCSD request to expand the parking lot onto park property, contingent upon the play field being included with the school construction plans. In addition, the City would want to be responsible for scheduling the usage field outside of school hours. The UCSD would have use of the field weekdays during the school year, and the City would have access and use of the fields on evenings and weekends, and during the summer. The UCSD would have priority to use the field outside school days, when requested.

Staff proposes that the City would agree to maintain the field (mowing, etc.), in order to maintain the quality of turf required for soccer and other activities. If the project is approved, staff recommends that the City consider irrigating the field, and pay for this improvement. Irrigating the fields would insure a quality surface, and provide more options for programming, etc. Putting in the irrigation at the time the field is constructed would be much more cost effective than adding it at a later date. Staff recommends approval of the request from the UCSD to use approximately 130 ft. x 270 ft. of parkland at Walker Johnston Park for a parking lot for the Valerius Elementary School reconstruction project. In return, the UCSD would construct a 120 ft. x 250 ft. play field, that the City of Urbandale would have access to and authority to schedule usage.

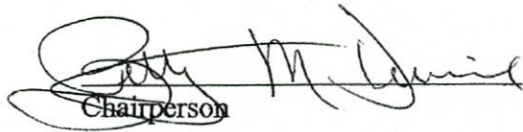
Richardson moved to approve staff recommendation and Parkin seconded the motion. On roll call: Ayes: Richardson, Parkin, Devine, Bewyer, Rowley, Hutchison. Nays: none. Passes: none. Motion carried.

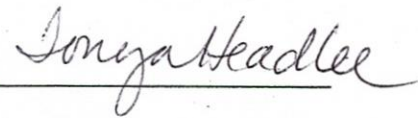
There were no Citizen's Comments.

The next item was Director's Reports. The WCRP Community Open Space, flushable restrooms at Deer Ridge and Murphy Park will be going to bid next Wednesday. Preliminary design plans for Barrett Park natural playscape will be back on Friday. There will be a budget work session this Saturday for all City Departments.

There were no Chairman's Items.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.


Chairperson

ATTEST: 

02/17/2021

Date