PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.
WebEx Meeting
MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Shannon Crouthers, Chair; Bobbie McClure, Vice-Chair; Rick Eriksen, Marty Tessmer, Bryon Taylor, Angela Zbikowski

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Ely, Sydney Futrell, Andre Hickman

OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation Services; Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space; Laura Perry, Deputy City Manager; Tracy Young, Manager of Planning, Design & Construction; Michelle Teller, Senior Planner of Planning, Design & Construction; Chris Fellows and Brent Martin, Developer and Consultant; Suzie Jaquith, Administrative Supervisor

I. CALL TO ORDER: By Parks & Recreation Board Chair Crouthers at 5:05 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS: Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space introduced Laura Perry, Deputy City Manager. Michelle Teller, Senior Planner of Planning, Design & Construction introduced Chris Fellows and Brent Martin, Developer and Consultant for Painted Prairie Community Park.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: The Agenda for the February 2, 2022 meeting was approved after a motion was made by Member McClure and seconded by Member Eriksen.

IV. ADOPTION OF PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES – The December 1, 2021 meeting Minutes were approved after a motion was made by Member McClure and seconded by Member Taylor.

V. BOARD DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS/REMINDERS
   A. Tracy Young, Manager of Planning, Design & Construction gave an overview of the PROS Master Plan Approval Process.
      • Parks and Recreation Advisory Board plays an important role in Master Plans and the Master Plan Approval Process. The Master Plan approval process was adopted by council by resolution in 1999. Generally, when Master Plans are approved, all land uses are dictated by the Master Plan. Master Plans are the result of public input and stakeholder coordination and adopted through the formal process. The process for amendments to Master Plans are also outlined in the resolution. For existing parks without a Master Plan, the existing site is considered the Master Plan. In order to change something, an Amendment to the Master Plan is required.
      • Neighborhood Parks Master Plan Approval Process requires a public input process within service area. Once input is gathered, a Master Plan is developed, and a public hearing is scheduled at a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. Public and board members can make comments and ask questions of staff. At the end of the public hearing, the board votes on the approval of the Master Plan.

NOTE: By simple majority vote, Board may re-establish Agenda order. Quorum is reached with five members.
• Community, Large Urban, Regional, & Special Use Parks – Community parks are approximately 40 acres with a service radius of about 2 miles, such as Del Mar Park and Red-Tailed Hawk Park. Large urban parks are over 100 acres with a community-wide draw. Regional parks have a wider draw, such as Aurora Reservoir. Special use parks are parks with a single use or focus like Wheel Park, Hoops Park, and Aurora Sports Park.

• Community, Large Urban, Regional, & Special Use Parks Master Plan Approval Process requires a public input process within service area and with specific interested user groups. Once input is gathered, a Master Plan is developed and is presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Board members review the Master Plan and can make comments and ask questions of staff. The Board is asked to vote on an advisory opinion to approve the Master Plan to move to a Planning Commission meeting for Public Hearing. After, the Master Plan is presented at city council study session with final step being the Master Plan approval by adoption of resolution by City Council at a Regular Session meeting.

• Master Plan Amendment – The approval process is similar to the approval process for neighborhood parks. In some instances, certain Master Plan Amendments can be approved by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department.

B. Michelle Teller, Senior Planner of Planning, Design & Construction gave a presentation of Painted Prairie Community Park Master Plan.

• The focus of the meeting is the advisory board approval of the Community Park Master Plan, including the list of potential uses and the size and general location of the uses within Phase 1 of the off-leash dog park area.

• Site location is southwest corner of 64th Avenue and Picadilly Road. The proposed community park will be split into several phases. The first phase, which is being presented at today’s meeting, is an off-leash dog park. The second phase will encompass the rest of the community park portion of the Master Plan on the west side of Picadilly Road. The third phase is a 20-acre site east of Picadilly Road.

• The community park is to be designed and constructed by a developer and turned over to Parks, Recreation and Open Space for ownership and maintenance, excluding the off-leash dog park which is anticipated to be owned and maintained by the metro district.

• Some future potential community park uses include an off-leash dog park, inclusive playground, educational prairie garden, picnic seating and pavilion, multi-sport court, crusher fine walkways and restrooms.

• The off-leash dog park is proposed to be 1.2 acre and is anticipated to be metro district owned and maintained. Some potential amenities include a large and small dog enclosure, agility course, seating in shade areas, and water fountain.

• Landscaping and vegetation are anticipated to buffer the dog park area from Picadilly Road with fencing around the enclosures to allow for off-leash dog play.

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• Plan also includes internal walking paths and connectivity to the rest of the community park. Access to the off-leash dog park will be off Picadilly Road and 61st Drive with on street parking available on 61st Avenue. Dedicated parking will be built within future phases for the rest of the community park.

• Developer sent out surveys to all registered neighborhood groups within a two-mile radius and distributed to all residents. Survey was also posted on the Aurora PROS website and received 297 responses. General feedback was positive.

• Developer anticipates breaking ground on the off-leash dog park in June or July of 2022 with a 4 to 5-month construction period. Developer offered to give a site tour to board members in the Spring.

• Questions from Board:
  
  a. Member McClure asked if there will be a buffer between the dog park and school. Staff replied, yes.
  
  b. Member Crouthers asked if parking will be available for dog park users. Developer replied it is anticipated parking will be needed in the northern portion of the park off 63rd Avenue and North Orleans Street. It is also anticipated the school parking lot will be used by park user during off-hours. On street parking will also be available on 61st avenue and Netherland Court. Staff added a parking analysis will be conducted as part of the site design process.
  
  c. Member Crouthers asked if temporary parking will be considered until permanent parking is available. Staff replied it is an option that will be discussed with the developer.
  
  d. Members Crouthers asked if artificial turf will be used inside the dog park and if so, how will dog waste be handled. Staff replied yes and maintenance will be considered when the Master Plan progresses to the site level.
  
  e. Member Tessmer asked what the rationale was on determining the acreage of the dog park and commented it should be larger. Developer replied it was based on ensuring there is plenty of room for the rest of the community park to be able to implement a variety of uses and activities for the community to enjoy.
  
  f. Member Tessmer asked if the dog park is going to include a dog cage with double gates at entry/exit points. Developer replied, yes.
  
  g. Member Eriksen asked if there will be a buffer between the dog park and the community park. Staff replied no, the off-leash dog park area is a portion of the community park.

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h. Member Eriksen asked if the HOA will maintain the park. Staff replied, per the Master Plan, the community park is anticipated to be owned and maintained by the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department, however, the off-leash dog park portion of the community park is anticipated to be owned and maintained by the metro district.

i. Member McClure asked if there will be a 6-foot fence on the side of the dog park closest to the school. Staff answered the height of fence has not yet been determined. There will be park uses that buffer the school.

j. Member Tessmer commented using landscaping such as trees and bushes on outside to hide the fence would be aesthetically pleasing.

• Conclusion of Presentation – Staff support the concept and will continue to work with the developer as the Master Plan progresses. Staff is asking the board for an advisory opinion and approval with next step of going to the Planning Commissions towards the end of the month for a public hearing.

• A motion was made by Member Crouthers to approve the Master Plan to move forward to the Planning Commission. The board voted unanimously to approve.

C. 2022 Proposed Calendar of Events

• Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department, announced this item will be tabled for a future meeting as staff are still in the process of finalizing the special event calendar.

D. PROS Update – Brooke Bell, Director of Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department

• This year staff will be focusing on some robust public engagement through wide master planning processes.
• Master Plan for Signature Park. An undeveloped property approximately 140 to 150 acres located the intersection of Airport Boulevard and Alameda Avenue.
• Master Plan for 12-acre site around the Center Recreation Center
• Master Plan Amendment for Red-Tailed Hawk to include 9 acres purchased from school district.
• Study on dog parks.

E. Board Member Term Expiration Update – Joe Sack, Manager of Recreation

• Joe announced terms are expiring April 30, 2022 for two members. Chairperson, Crouthers who is termed limited, creating a vacancy and Vice-Chair McClure.
• Openings are posted and city clerk’s office is accepting applications. Interview process and scheduling to be an Agenda Item for the March 2, 2022 meeting.
VI. BOARD MEMBERS REMARKS
   A. Comments from Board Members
      • Member McClure expressed excitement about the Hoffman Heights Park playground improvements. She asked what is required for a group to hold a community event at Hoffman Heights Park. Brooke replied depending on the criteria of the event, it may require a temporary use permit. Brooke will follow up with appropriate staff and provide Member McClure with contact information.
      • Member Crouthers asked if staff knows when the construction project will be completed next to Grandview Dog Park. Tracy Young responded she will follow up with Aurora Water and provide an answer.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS
   A. Wednesday, March 2, 2022 - Virtual meeting – Webex

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – Member Zbikowski made a motion to adjourn and Member Taylor seconded. The motion passed at 6:35 p.m.

Shannon Crouthers, Chair;
Parks & Recreation Board

ADOPTED _____________________________

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