

**City of Lodi Parks Committee Meeting
Minutes of March 3, 2020**

1. Call to Order

Chair Hansen called meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Committee Members Present: Rich Stevenson, Eric Hansen, Suzanne Miller, Letha Kelsey Klobberdanz, Bill Welch, and Mikel Bilkey

Excused: Adele Van Ness

Staff Present: Julie Ostrander, Jennifer Sweeney, Patrick Staszak

Others: Jim Ness, Paul Skidmore, Patti Herman, Dan Cole

2. Public Input. Hansen indicated that there would be time for public input regarding the CORP after the presentation.

3. Approve Minutes from March 3, 2020

MOTION (Stevenson/Bilkey) to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

Miller asked for clarification regarding amendment to the minutes from a prior meeting. Sweeney confirmed that the minutes had been amended and amended minutes not uploaded to the website is a clerical error.

4. Parks Financials

Miller stated that money for parks development should be put towards the Lodi Street park. The committee clarified with Ostrander the amounts that were budgeted for park development. There is money earmarked for restrooms in Habermann Park and a dog park. Any money not used in previous years and not budgeted through the Parks Development Fund went back to the General Fund balance.

5. Presentation of Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) – Presented by Paul Skidmore

Skidmore recounted the process used to develop the CORP. In addition, he gave an overview of the plan elements and the maps he created for the CORP.

6. Public Input to Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP)

Patti Herman asked for explanation on the stated growth rate in the CORP. She stated that the 34% growth rate seemed too high. Additionally, Herman stated there were areas in the plan that she felt were missed or needed clarification. These areas included the following: The rain garden by Veteran's Park; Heritage Park, use of school property as recreation areas; use of the fairgrounds as a recreation area; the lack of a trail in Spring Creek Park; the usability of Sunset Park; recreational fees; and stormwater facilities as recreational areas.

The Committee agreed that a 34% growth rate seemed high and stated they would look into the discrepancy. Welch clarified that the rain garden was not called out separately from Veteran's Park and instead is considered part of that park. Welch will update the description of Veteran's Park to include the rain garden. Additionally, the Committee agreed that Heritage Park is not a city park. Moreover, there is not a formal agreement with the schools that residents can use the school grounds as recreation areas when school is not in session. Bilkey pointed out that there is not a formal agreement with the fairgrounds either. The Committee would like to pursue a more formal agreement with the school district since the current district administrator will be retiring at the end of this school year. Bilkey stated he will contact the school district for clarification on use of school recreation areas. Stevenson stated that the trail in Spring Creek Park is included in the Main Street Corridor Plan and is part of the TID. Skidmore clarified that stormwater facilities as recreational areas means that retention and detention ponds be developed into more natural areas rather than a rectangular basin with a fence around it. He stated that detention/retention ponds can include trails in or around the basin as well as natural elements and benches for passive recreational areas.

Miller stated that she is concerned with the amount and cost of recent flood damage and the plan should show a way to manage stormwater within the parks. Skidmore stated that physical changes and ordinance changes would be needed. Miller also stated that fundraisers can be used to generate funding for park development.

Dan Cole stated that he lives by the old primary school and that area of the city is now lacking a park. He also offered his assistance if the city is interested in installing a disc golf course. He noted that there is one on school property but it only has eight holes. Welch stated that this would be another topic to discuss with the school district.

Welch stated that there should be rewording regarding a master plan with the school district. Instead, this section should state that there should be a use agreement with the whole district rather than each individual school. Welch also stated that language regarding a skate park should be added to the plan since they are popular with area youth. Additionally, he stated that the Ice Age Trail is misrepresented on the map.

7. Recommendation on Bids for Spring Creek Retaining Wall Reconstruction

Stevenson stated that there were two contractors who bid on the retaining wall project in Goeres park. He indicated that the size of the project prohibited additional contractors from bidding as it would take them the entire construction season to complete. The Committee discussed the bids and budgetary dollars for the project. Ostrander and Staszak stated that after discussing with contractors, a larger rock for the retaining wall would be more cost efficient. The Committee discussed rock sizes in relation to the current bid amounts. Some Committee members felt that future construction on the retaining wall should match the existing areas that were already reconstructed. Ness and Staszak will meet with the city engineers to discuss rock size and associated costs. The Committee declined to recommend a bid.

8. Discussion of T-ball Diamond at Park (Optimist/Sopha)

Hansen stated that the Optimists felt Sunset Park wouldn't work for their needs.

9. Discussion of Tree Cutting in Parks

Welch stated he has received questions regarding cutting trees in parks and if the city has a forestry plan. Staszak stated that trees removed from the parks are generally diseased, dying, or a safety hazard. The Director of Operations can remove trees at his discretion.

10. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Item

The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lodi Public Library.

- Discuss fundraising for the parks

11. Adjourn

MOTION (Miller/Welch) to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Minutes by Jennifer Sweeney, Management Analyst