

March 26 Meeting of the Birchwood Village Parks Committee

Present: Houstoun Clinch, Judy Walker, Dave Remely, Ana Vang, and Bridget Sperl

Absent: James Nelson

Approved February 2019 minutes.

Tables – Dave will research ADA compliant table options for potential future purchase recommendations.

Horseshoe pit – Dave designed the pit. Costs for installation and materials would be \$1695 (quote from John Lund). The topic was tabled until a location could be recommended.

Birchwood park map – Ana will continue to talk with graphic designers and look into design and printing costs.

Section 607 – Topic was tabled until the committee has a chance to read formulate recommendations. Houstoun will ask Tobin to send Section 607 to the committee for review.

Hockey rink + pickleball – The Council will review the Parks Improvement Plan in May. Given that the capitol improvement section for Tight Schmitz is to create a wholistic plan for maintenance, use, and improvements, the committee is deferring a decision on major purchases/changes until the Council has acted on the plan.

Hockey rink LED lights – Committee recommends the City works with Xcel to explore rebates and cost savings, and install LEDs.

Earth Day cleanup – Committee recognizes the feedback and request from the Council, but has determined there is not enough time to get the word out and recruit volunteers between the April Council meeting and the date of the cleanup. The committee will explore this topic again next year.

Bouys for boats – Committee recommends that the city not install bouys due to safety considerations (how folks get to the boat, the abundance of boaters who recreate near shore/in the zone where the boats would be).

Dog waste – Committee believes that the proper collection and disposal of dog waste continues to be an issue in the Village. Houstoun will look into pricing of additional bag dispensing stations as well as additional garbage can near trails, easements, etc.

City owned waste cans – Is it possible to label city owned waste/recycling cans so folks know they can use them to dispose of litter, dog waste, etc.? Houstoun will reach out to Tobin.

Birchwood turns 100! – Birchwood will be celebration its 100th birthday in 2021.

Deer in Birchwood – Last fall, the Parks committee recommended that the Council hold a public hearing on culling deer within the City (John Lund would have organized the hunt) (August 2018). The Council asked the Parks Committee to hold the public hearings. The Parks Committee voted to table to issue given the implementation timeline for fall 2018 culling was no longer feasible, and because the committee felt the community feedback should be heard by the decision making body of the City. The committee will take the issue back up if – at minimum – the Council parks liaison is present during the public information/feedback meeting. Ideally the meeting would be a joint meeting of the Council and Parks Committee. The committee proposes the following process:

- Committee researches possible deer management options (as of now the known possibilities are: do nothing, hire marksmen to cull deer, hold a limited hunt, or tranquilize and release). Bridget will gather information from the DNR, Houston will get in touch with neighboring communities who have deer population management programs.
- Committee plans an informational/public input meeting for July, which would leave time for action to be taken in fall 2019.
- Presentation of factual information about urban deer (ideally from experts like DNR staff).
- Presentation by Committee of possible management options.
- Committee + council liaison/entire council takes public comment. Committee solicits comments in other formats (Facebook, electronic newsletter).
- After weighing public feedback, committee makes recommendation to Council in August 2019.

Parks liaison – Committee requests that the new parks liaison attend the April parks committee meeting to introduce himself.

April Agenda

- Approval of Minutes and Agenda
- Parks liaison introduction
- Council report out/questions to be addressed (Houston)
- Updates on:
 - Horseshoe pit (Dave)
 - Maps (Ana)
 - Deer in Birchwood (Bridget and Houston)
 - Dog Waste Stations (Houston)
 - ADA tables (Dave)
- Sect 607 review and proposed changes (all)