

DOUGLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Meeting on December 21, 2006

10:00 AM

County Court House Room 216

PRESENT: Lonnie Ferber, Dennis Acton, Jon Hill, Bill Swift, and Dick Swartzlender,
Jack Reilly (arrived at 10:12 AM)
Staff: Jim Dowd and Rob Stevens

EXCUSED: Tom Ryan

GUESTS: Larry Gilbert

MINUTES: of the board meeting of the October 26, 2006 and November 21, 2006
Dennis Acton moved for approval of the minutes Dick Swartzlender seconded.
Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Pitchford Master Plan

Consultant Larry Gilbert of Cameron, McCarthy, Gilbert, & Scheibe, brought forward to the Park Advisory Board a draft concept of the Pitchford Master Plan for discussion and approval.

Gilbert gave a brief history of the master plan process including previous discussions and input from the PAB and the general public. He explained how the best of both original designs were married into one final design as suggested by the PAB.

Some of the improvements identified in the plan for River Forks include a double boat launch ramp, increase boat trailer parking, hard surface walk path on the bluff overlooking the river, river view gazebo, new pavilion, zero depth water feature, new play area, basketball courts and a new path system in the natural zone.

Suggested improvements for the Pitchford area include, a new park entry, a celebration space, dog walking area, a new community center that utilizes the existing structures, expanded master garden area, relocation of some of the master garden facilities, additional parking at the community center, natural storm water detention area connecting pathways, circular drop-off area and improved landscaping.

Reilly expressed concern regarding the funding of the plan because of the impending loss of the safety net. He suggested the PAB wait on approving the plan until a funding mechanism was secured. Other members thought it would be best to have an approved plan in place so that when funding from grants, donations, or other sources became available, areas that have been prioritized could be implemented.

Hill moved and Swartzlender seconded a motion to accept the draft plan as submitted by Gilbert.

During the discussion phase of the motion, Ferber requested public input. Members of the audience spoke in favor of the plan.

Julie Stanbery asked that new restrooms be designed into the plan for use by the master gardeners and the public. Gilbert noted that public restrooms accessible from the outside would be located in the proposed community center.

Connie Dotson questioned the incorporation of bike parking and bicycle travel. Gilbert answered that bike racks would be in the plan.

Barbara Colebank wanted to make sure that the public could walk their dogs at Pitchford. Members of the board indicated that the PAB would develop that a policy in the future.

Gilbert noted that he would provide a cost estimate and an improvement priority list for the PAB's meeting in January.

Motion: It was moved by Hill and seconded by Swartzlender that the Park Advisory Board accept the final draft of Pitchford Master Plan as submitted. Passed unanimously .

OFF AGENDA:

Commissioner Van Slyke thanked the Park Advisory Board for their support for his coastal projects. Van Slyke then discussed a project consisting of an ADA accessible beach access trail and viewing platform to be constructed by Douglas County Public Works off of the first parking area on the coast.. Van Slyke then requested that the PAB approve the naming of the landing to Betts Landing. Betts is the nick name of a relative that is disabled who along with other disabled visitors, would enjoy viewing the beach.

Motion: It was moved by Reilly and seconded by Swartzlender that when an ADA accessible beach trail and landing is constructed it shall be named "Betts Landing". Motion carried unanimously.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Dowd informed members of the PAB that three members, Jack Reilly, Tom Ryan, and Dick Swartzlender, terms were set to expire at the end of the year. They were given written notification at the beginning of the month. They, as well as members of the public, were encouraged to apply for the positions.

Dowd also informed the PAB that long time employee, Rose Mary Barry had elected to fully retire from the Park Department after 25 years of service.

NEXT MEETING – Scheduled for January 18, 2007 at the Park Department headquarters.

Jon Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill Swift.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Dowd, Park Director
Douglas County Park Department