

**City of Falcon Heights
Parks & Recreation Commission**

**AGENDA
Curtiss Field
Monday, June 9, 2014
6:30 p.m.**

___ Christina Erickson	___ Gordon Strom	___ Mary Hannon Jacobson
___ Liz Asmus	___ Dave Thomas	___ Michael Breen
___ Cari Lee		
___ Staff Michelle Tesser	___ Staff Tim Pittman	___ Council Liaison Chuck Long

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of May 12th meeting minutes
3. Overview on Council's Discussion on Park Improvements from Park Improvement Study Conducted by WSB and Associates.
4. Grant Funding Opportunity for Curtiss Field Playground
5. Update on Recreation Programming
6. Movie in the Park- Volunteers
7. Curtiss Field Park Hours
8. Public Works Report -Tim Pittman
9. New Business

Next meeting date:

Next Commission meeting is Monday, July 7

**City of Falcon Heights
Parks & Recreation Commission
Minutes
Monday, May 12, 2014
6:30 p.m**

In Attendance:

Christina Erickson Gordon Strom Mary Hannon Jacobson
 Liz Asmus Dave Thomas Michael Breen
 Cari Lee
 Staff Michelle Tesser Staff Tim Pittman Council Liaison Chuck Long
Guest: City Forester, Andy

1. Call to Order - 6:35 pm
2. Any corrections to March minutes? Approval of March meeting minutes.
3. Public Works Report - Tim Pittman – Tim is absent tonight
4. Update on Park Improvement Plan and Council Review

Chuck: Powerpoint was shown to the Council by Candace. Presentation was very similar. The Council got a hard copy of the report, which was the same as she gave the commission. Candace is almost done with the final version of the report; it will then be reviewed by the Council. On June 4th there is a workshop with the Council and the Parks Improvement Plan is on the agenda. The council will go through it closely and determine some suggestions and recommendation to the Parks and Rec commission.

Curtiss field may be the priority. An important point might be the long term vision of this park.

The pond is being fixed, the flooding issue is being re-engineered and will begin right after the State Fair. The area where the hockey rinks are will be torn up and under - ground holding tanks will be placed there to allow the water to seep into the soil more slowly. The field will be regraded, and there will be a fence around the pond. The rest will be up for this committee to determine.

Maybe a basketball court in the summer can be a hockey rink in the winter?

Will these tanks ever have to be accessed once they are buried? Not likely, or there will be other means of access. They are prepared to have to access it another way.

A hatch or vacuum design can be done to provide any access needed.

How much of Curtiss field will be revamped? It could be the whole park. Some of the amenities are reaching the end of their useful life. This is yet to be decided.

Assure the Council understands the Commission is committed and will recognize the financial commitment is worthwhile. Chuck will communicate that message to the council. Candace will need to submit a more specific plan as well for implementation.

5. Should we have a workshop for our parks and rec commission? To develop goals and objectives over the coming years? The city council can give us directions – but do we want to spend some time making up our own goals and objectives for the coming year?

Set a date for a workshop at the next meeting and determine goals. P & R has a set of goals and objectives, so would we be expanding on these?

We should set some goals for the next 2 years. Ideas that will help us be proactive. It seems like a good idea. There are opportunities for partnerships for gardening, or develop some community building options that help improve the parks. The Council will probably want a comprehensive park plan moving forward and this may help us do that.

A subcommittee could be formed to consider grants and investigate sources of revenue. For example, MN wild opportunities for hockey nets. We can work with Michelle to find the opportunities and submit . Some of these may dovetail with the park improvement plan. Trails can fit too. Michelle does a lot of grant writing, and these need to go through Michelle and Bart always – as this is city business. We have to assure there are no conditions that we are unable to fulfill.

Rather than forming a subcommittee – how about people just bring their ideas? Sub committees have to fall under open meeting laws. Might be better to add revenue development to our agendas as a commission. When found, forward to Michelle to review.

6. City Forester Update – Andy

Removals of ash trees are done. This is the last year of the 2 year DNR grant. Stumps ground in another week. Contractor has trees that did not survive – the tree's are under warranty, and he and Tim are having a hard time getting a hold of the contractor. Contractor is now with a new company, but the contract should still be fulfilled. St. Croix was bought out by Instagreen.

One tree pulled at Curtiss – 3-4 yet to be pulled. But may not pull too many out because of the future changes to the park. One tree pulled at Grove.

Grant money tapped out? For now. Decided early on to work on 45 trees a year and replacing over a period of years. St. Paul and MPLS are pulling large stretches of ash tree down, we are doing it in smaller chunks over a number of years.

Andy is choosing the trees to remove. He is spreading out the removal, and will now begin to take from boulevards, even when the nearby homeowners don't want the tree removed. He has deferred for residents as long as he could.

Gordon: Have you completed a city wide master plan? There is a master map which shows where all the trees are. This is being updated, but that inventory is not up to date. It is 10 years old. He will have to go back and re-inventory the tree status in the community. He may plan to redo sections in certain years. No city wide master tree plan is reliable at this point.

The available planting space list is not up to date either, it looks like there is lots of room for planting but this is not accurate. For example, overhanging from other trees or a utility conflict make them not available for planting. Since the inventory isn't accurate, it is hard to make decisions from home or office.

All of the decision making in the parks is done by Andy walking the parks and making decisions.

Residents have asked about replanting, but we don't want to put in trees that will be torn out. At community park the issue is the amenities.

At Community park, the structure of some of the trees is poor - these trees need to be cabled for safety and to support poor branch attachments.

Mary: Is it worth it to treat some of the ash trees at Community park, until new trees grew in?

Andy: That would depend on the decision of the council.

Mary: What would you recommend?

Andy: The city would probably need to have a levy or raise taxes to treat the trees, and keep them longer. The decision has been to remove and replace. If we were to treat something, it would be to treat the trees at the park – but we would have to justify that we are treating park trees but not boulevard trees. We made a decision to go down the road of remove and replace, since we made the decision we have to follow it.

The chemicals are not a cure, just a delaying tactic.

Pruning can keep the ash trees safe too. Even though the trees are dying we have cursory management.

More trees on the Roselawn side of the parking lot in Community Park would be a good idea too, to provide canopy closure for parking.

What is happening with Cleveland Blvd? New Princeton Elm is planted there. Containerized elm, is planted there. Bound and burlap tree's have struggled to live there. These trees have done well in other parts of the city. Tim will water when needed.

What are your plans for the rest of the season?

Pruning is quite caught up. Refocusing now on areas that have a lot of deadwood. Tree trimming to assure emergency vehicles to pass. Stump grinding yet to occur, and some smaller projects. Some replacements yet to do this spring.

Residents need to know that the city will fix the holes left from removed ash trees.

Anything else? Grove could get a new pine where one was removed. This may be replaced. Tim gives Andy guidance, because maintenance is an important part of this. We would need a volunteer corp to keep these kind of beds attractive.

Do we have a garden club? There might be over in Grove. We might need this to maintain some garden spaces in parks.

On Larpenteur, things have run amuck – irrigation is unclear, maintenance is unclear. Some plants are salvageable and others are not. Does this fall under P & R? Probably not. They

may be replacing trees there, and determining what has survived in the planters. Might be wise to have a maintenance company.

Two red oaks on Hoyt were removed due to Oak Wilt.

7. School - may be revamping the western playground. Not sure yet, but Mary is going to be the playground representative for the school for the renovations in that playground. Just to let us know that is coming up.

In the park improvement plan, they said it would be nice for the parks to complement each other. So, it will be good to know what the school is doing.

Partnership being formed? Chuck and Bart had a meeting with the school principal and they are building a relationship. The report on the parks has been shared with the school, and to keep the communication open. It would be great to have a park the city and the school would love.

Other open items? None at this time.

Does the Council set the budget which determines how much we can do?

Not sure.

We have a fair amount of data on what it would cost to maintain and/or replace what it would cost for the parks.

Should we decide what we want in the park? But we need some idea of what kind of money we can spend. We also need to consider how the parks work together and complement each other.

Meeting Conclusions:

a. Summary of Decisions Made

1. Identification of grants, please bring to meeting and/or send to Michelle for review and fit with the city.
2. Have our own workshop after hearing from the Council.

b. Summary of Action Items

Chuck will send info via email from the Council meeting after their workshop with the city on June 4th,

c. Documents to Attach/PDF with these Meeting Minutes

- i. None at this time.

d. Incomplete Decisions which should be included on the next Agenda

- i. None at this time

Adjourned: 7:55 pm

Next meeting date: Monday, June 9th

Submitted by: Christina Erickson

CURTIS FIELD CALL LIST - 2011 TO MAY 21, 2013

ICR	Title	Common Place	Date	Time	Summary Contains
11001757	Suspicious Activity/Person/Vehicle	CURTIS FIELD	3/1/2011	1213	Call received in regards to lewd behavior. Upon arrival located veh in lot occupied by a male and a female. It appeared parties had just finished lewd act but could not prove it. Id'ed and strongly advised and sent.
11002901	Fleeing on Foot	Curtis Field	4/4/2011	1836	19 year old male arrested for flee police on foot and possession of drug paraphernalia. Citation issued and released.
11003054	Disturbance/Noise Complaint	CURTIS FIELD	4/9/2011	1652	Checked park and determined the loud parties had left prior to squad arrival. GOA/UTL. The R/P did not wish to be contacted.
11003055	Code Enforcement	CURTIS FIELD	4/9/2011	1720	Report of individuals with a lit grill under the gazebo, at the park. Subject with grill ID'd. Grill moved out of the shelter. Advised.
11003877	COP Detail	Curtis Field	5/5/2011	2022	Attended a Somali Community event.
11005661	Disturbance/Noise Complaint	Curtis Field	6/21/2011	2255	Dispatched to Curtis Field for call of people being loud at the pavillion. Upon arrival park was empty and I observed 4 males walking on Iowa from that area. They stated they were not at the park and were just walking back from store (advised). GOA/UTL
11006274	COP Detail	Curtiss Field	7/10/2011	21	Foot patrol of parks - all okay.
11007581	Suspicious Activity/Person/Vehicle	CURTIS FIELD	8/16/2011	1842	Vehicle with two occupants in parking lot. Located and advised.
11008615	Harassment	CURTIS FIELD	9/12/2011	1913	Assisted/Advised RP and his young daughter with small group of males in park.
11008712	Disturbance	Curtis Field	9/15/2011	2120	RP reported people in park after hours playing basketball - advised/sent.
11009027	Juvenile Problem	CURTIS FIELD	9/25/2011	1229	Juveniles throwing bricks at tree. Priority medical call. One hour later- gone on arrival.
11009352	Disorderly Conduct	Curtis Field	10/5/2011	838	Report of sexual activity in park. Located and identified. No inappropriate behavior observed. Advised.

11010698	COP Detail	Curtiss Field	#####	1741	Foot patrol through park.
11011828	Suspicious Activity/Person/Vehicle	Curtis Field	#####	1623	RP reported a suspicious male possibly smoking marijuana. Located male - all okay. Advised/sent.
12000181	Suspicious	Curtis Field	1/7/2012	2135	Suspicious vehicle. Occupants identified and sent.
12000470	Police Proactive Visit	Curtiss Field	1/17/2012	2343	Extra patrol due to recent complaints.
12000641	Criminal Damage to Property	Curtiss Field	1/24/2012	1923	Curtiss Field pavilion had a broken window. Unknown suspects.
12000779	Criminal Damage to Property	Curtiss Field	1/29/2012	345	Damage to window on the park building. Appeared to have been caused by a bebe gun. Information received on a 20 year old male suspect.
12000826	COP Detail	Curtis Field	1/31/2012	157	Extra patrol at Curtis Field periodically throughout the evening - all okay.
12000853	COP Detail	Curtis Field Park	1/31/2012	2352	Extra patrol through park - all okay.
12000937	COP Detail	Curtiss Field	2/3/2012	2336	Checked park
12001710	Suspicious	Curtiss Field	2/28/2012	2105	Observed two suspicious parties in park - advised/sent.
12001993	Narcotics	Curtis Field	3/8/2012	1712	RP reported two juvenile females were smoking marijuana in the park. Checked park - GOA/UTL.
12002374	Fireworks	Curtis Field Park	3/19/2012	1822	RP reported kids lighting off fireworks - area checked - GOA/UTL.
12002559	Juvenile Problem	Curtis Field Park	3/26/2012	1825	Mother of 10 year old female reported harassment by juvenile boys. Spoke with all parties involved and their parents.
12002623	COP Detail	Curtis Field	3/28/2012	1705	Conducted foot patrol at the park
12003988	Disturbance	Curtiss Field	5/11/2012	2322	RP reported a group at Curtiss Field after hours and heard a "banging" sound. Located group - playing ball. Advised/sent.
12004034	COP Detail	Curtis Field	5/13/2012	1946	COP detail at Curtis Field Park
12004166	COP Detail	Curtiss Field	5/17/2012	1836	Played basketball with juveniles in park
12004364	COP Detail	Curtiss Field	5/22/2012	1800	Civil Rights Comission meet and greet at Curtiss Field - participated.
12004409	COP Detail	Curtiss Field	5/22/2012	1800	Attended community event.
12004565	COP Detail	Curtis Field	5/28/2012	1845	Stopped and talked with some FH residents and their kids

12004937	COP Detail	Curtiss Field	6/8/2012	1633	Observed group of 10 juvenile males (ages 5-12) playing basketball, one of which was crying and holding his face. A male volunteered to bring him home to his mother. I showed police squad to the rest of children.
12006000	COP Detail	Curtis Field	7/12/2012	305	Foot patrol in park - everything appeared to be in order.
12006156	Disturbance	Curtis Field Park	7/16/2012	2059	Male and female drinking in park. Located, not drinking at this time. Advised.
12006183	COP Detail	Curtis Field	7/17/2012	1009	Meet and greet with Falcon Heights Parks and Rec children. Q&A session and squad tour.
12006243	Suspicious Activity/Person/Vehicle	Curtiss Field	7/19/2012	336	Observed a lone male sleeping on a bench inside the gazebo at Curtiss Field - identified via Florida ID card. Advised/sent.
12006319	Juvenile Problem	CURTIS FIELD	7/20/2012	1958	RP reported juvenile males were climbing on the roof of the building at the park. Spoke with a group of juveniles at the park. They were advised.
12006360	Suspicious Activity/Person/Vehicle	Curtis Field Park	7/21/2012	1938	RP reported someone was on top of park building taking pictures of the kids in park. Area checked - GOA/UTL.
12006863	Juvenile Problem	Curtis Field Park	8/5/2012	1801	RP reported juveniles were riding bikes at park and causing traffic problems. Juveniles GOA/UTL.
12006910	Suspicious Activity/Person/Vehicle	Curtiss Field	8/6/2012	1946	RP reported suspicious activity at Curtiss Field. The RP stated there was a group of 3 juveniles smoking at the park. Observed a vehicle leaving the park and driver did not have his seatbelt on. Asked him what he and his friends were doing at the park and he stated they were just smoking a cigarette, they were friends he had not seen in a while. Assisted/Advised.
12007790	Juvenile Problem	Curtis Field	8/27/2012	2200	Arrested 3 juveniles males (two 16 years of age and one 15 years of age) lighting off fireworks in the city park. Confiscated the prohibited contraband as evidence. Advised the juvenile males would be charged via juvenile petition for the fireworks. All parties were released to the custody of their parents.
12008298	COP Detail	Curtiss Field	9/9/2012	115	Checked park - clear

12008311	Juvenile Problem	CURTISS FIELD	9/9/2012	1349	Juveniles tipping over tables. Gone on arrival. Tables turned back upright.
12009438	COP Detail	Curtiss Field	#####	2327	Checked doors and area. Nothing appeared to be suspicious or out of order
12009707	Suspicious Activity/Person/Vehicle	CURTIS FIELD	#####	715	RP reported a suspicious dark sedan - occupied and parked in the park. Area checked -GOA/UTL.
12009889	COP Detail	Curtis Field	#####	1409	Squad walked through and spoke with people in the park
12009938	COP Detail	Curtiss Field	11/1/2012	250	Checked area and park. All okay.
12010939	Suspicious Activity	CURTISS FIELD	12/3/2012	2156	Suspicious vehicle. Located parked in handicap parking spot. Driver and passenger in back seat. Advised. Driver issued citation for parking violation.
12010951	Assist Citizen	Curtiss Field	12/4/2012	949	Extra patrol request for park. Advised.
12011034	COP Detail	Curtiss Field	12/7/2012	315	Park check and nothing appeared out of order.
12011444	COP Detail	Curtiss Field	#####	255	Park checked and nothing appeared to be out of order
12011695	COP Detail	Curtiss Field	#####	2300	Checked park - all okay
13001331	Disturbance/Noise Complaint	CURTIS FIELD	2/12/2013	2043	Skaters in the park after hours. Located parent picking up kids. Advised.
13003138	Child Abuse	CURTISS FIELD	4/5/2013	1157	Information received on possible child abuse of a six year old male. Ramsey County Child Protection notified. The suspect was identified as the victim's father. Contacted social worker at Falcon Heights Elementary School and advised him of our findings. No further police investigation warranted at this time.

13003613	Juvenile Problem	Curtiss Field	4/19/2013	2209	RP reported a suspicious vehicle in the park - possible drinking. Located vehicle occupied by four 16 year old males who stated they were smoking hookah pipes and they had marijuana. Contacted each of the juveniles parents and requested they respond to Curtiss Field. All the juveniles males were cooperative and honest. This case will be submitted to the Northwest Youth and Family Services diversion program. School reports were also completed and submitted to their schools. All the juveniles were released to their parents.
13003896	Suspicious Activity/Person/Vehicle	CURTISS FIELD	4/27/2013	2208	Individuals in park 8 minutes after closing. Located and advised.
13004000	Suspicious Activity/Person/Vehicle	CURTIS FIELD	4/30/2013	2343	Observed two individuals in park after hours. Identified, advised, and sent.
13004477	COP Detail	Curtiss Field	5/15/2013	1915	Visited with members of the Falcon Heights community at the park.
13004686	COP Detail	Curtiss Field	5/21/2013	1800	Attended multi-cultural event