

Ad Hoc Parks, Recreation & Forestry Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 28, 2011
7:00 a.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 a.m.

Present: Jane Lardahl, Brian Flynn, George Adrian, Beth Arneberg, and
Audrey Stowell

Others: Dick Hebert and Jennifer London.

1. Discuss Park Employees' ideas as presented on June 22. Members felt employee discussions had the following main areas: supervisory issues, lack of training, and scheduling and/or need of additional help in zoo area. Department formats that were discussed included having director duties shifted to a city administrator and 2 supervisors; using a director and assistant director (who would handle parks ½ time and rec ½ time); director, director of operations (who would handle both parks & rec) and seasonal rec supervisor; and moving foreman to a non-union position. Discussed multi-tasks of employees and using a 7-day rotation for all employees vs. 5-day for coverage on weekends. Discussed need to keep all union positions we currently have and not just moving someone up to a non-union position and losing another worker or maintenance person. Discussed interruptions in form of calls from public and dealing with that issue by having director physically located at the park at least part of the time. Dick relates that when a call is taken, if he were physically in the park, he could go look or take care of it himself, but now he needs to call another employee in the park to go look or take care of it. Related is the need to have the same computer access to e-mail, programs, etc. in the park as at the office. Communication among staff could be improved. More immediate access to supervisor would be helpful as well. Discussed physical location and more meetings (group or one-on-one) would be helpful. Exploring a combined dept. of engineering/roads/parks was also discussed, and Rick Rubenzer or Rob Krecji will be asked to attend a meeting to discuss this with them and/or potentially gain insights and ideas from their re-organization. Dick indicates that it is easier to have salaried vs. hourly people help cover some of the night and weekend events / leagues, as it may require only a 15 minute visit. Discussed putting some focus on raising revenue v. cutting spending (i.e. changes/options in concessions) and hope that this type of focus would be something a new director – not director/park supervisor - would have time for. Discussed that with the staffing cuts, the director position had evolved into a position that no longer focused on the big picture; it was involved with more of the day-to-day operations. Discussed benefit of employees having texting on their cell phones for better communication and access – less disruptive, message to refer back to, etc. No action taken.
2. Discuss Rec Supervisor's position and recreation programs. In addition to discussing the rec supervisor position as indicated above, discussed the purpose

of the parks & rec dept., eliminating programs and whether any entities would pick up the ball and offer those programs, and expense of pool. No action taken.

3. Discuss other Park Staffing. No discussion. No action taken.

Jane will send out proposed dates for next meeting.

4. Adjournment. **Motion by Brian Flynn, seconded by George Adrian, all present voting aye, to adjourn at 8:30 a.m.**

Submitted by:

Audrey Stowell, Secretary