

REGULAR ANDOVER OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 13, 2016
MINUTES

The Regular Meeting of the Andover Open Space Advisory Commission was called to order by Chairperson Gretchen Sabel at 7:24 p.m., at the Andover City Hall, 1685 Crosstown Boulevard NW, Andover, Minnesota.

Prior to the meeting, the Commissioners and staff conducted a walking tour of the Maple View Open Space.

Commissioners present: Anna Dirkswager, Joy Faherty, Aaron Jarson, Kim Kovich, Jim Olson, and Suzanne Van Hecke
Commissioners absent: None
Also present: David Carlberg, Community Development Director
Kameron Kytonen, Natural Resources Technician

RESIDENT FORUM

No one wished to address the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 11, 2016

Motion by Commissioner Kovich, Second by Commissioner Olson, to approve the minutes of May 11, 2016. Motion passed 7-0.

MAPLE VIEW MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Carlberg displayed an aerial photograph of the Maple View open space area and highlighted the path that the Commission walked through prior to the meeting tonight, noting that while they were not able to cover the entire area tonight they did see a fair amount of the property. He displayed the management plan for the property and reviewed the management tasks summary.

Mr. Kytonen provided additional information on the process used to remove reed canary grass. He stated that overall the property is in pretty decent shape.

Chairperson Sabel asked and received confirmation that the reed canary grass removal would be in excess of the estimated budget for the management of invasive species and suggested placing that item in its own line item.

Mr. Carlberg stated that he simply used estimates from other management plans when he created this draft plan and could work with staff to provide better estimates. He reported that the play equipment in the adjacent park will be installed later this year. He stated that the kiosk and the play, clean, go signage would be installed on the open space property.

Chairperson Sabel referenced the task to remove old wildlife foot plot and asked what would be in place of that.

Mr. Kytonen replied that it would most likely become a prairie and confirmed that the task could be further specified with the replacement action.

Commissioner Van Hecke asked if the trail placement had been discussed.

Mr. Carlberg advised of the path the group took and portions that the Commission agreed would be good for trail placement.

Commissioner Van Hecke stated that she would want to ensure that the ferns and other natural elements along the trail path be preserved to the measure they can when the trails are cut in.

Mr. Carlberg noted that there is still a section of the open space that the Commission would still need to walk that they did not get to tonight. He reviewed the site recommendations description portion of the management plan, noting that he used the assessment of the open space to create this portion of the plan.

Commissioner Kovich agreed that the trails should remain as the highest priority.

Mr. Carlberg noted that staff will attempt to obtain historical information on the properties.

KIOSK SIGNAGE

Commissioner Faherty stated that she found a sharable template from the national park website that she was able to use to create the draft. She briefly reviewed the draft document.

The Commission agreed that circles with lines through them should be placed over the pictures under the leave no trace section.

Commissioner Faherty stated that going forward perhaps the poster section for the kiosks should be made more uniform with vertical placement.

Commissioner Jarson noted that people like to see the “you are here” star on maps and that would be helpful.

Commissioner Van Hecke stated that perhaps additional information should be placed in the history section and noted that perhaps photographs could be included next to some of the items in the site features section.

Commissioner Kovich agreed that it would be helpful to have photographs of the item to help people identify the items within the open space.

Commissioner Dirkswager stated that the section would not be lost without photographs as people can use their smartphones to find pictures.

The Commission thanked Commissioner Faherty for her assistance in creating this draft.

Commissioner Van Hecke noted additional items that could be included in site features, such as the total amount of miles of trails or the location of the picnic areas.

Commissioner Faherty stated that perhaps the picnic area should be identified on the trail map.

Chairperson Sabel suggested adding the statement to the Martin Meadows kiosk signage “ten acres of restored prairie” to the site features.

Commissioner Faherty stated that she asked for input from residents on what they would want to see in the kiosk and used those comments to help her create the draft. She asked if anyone would want to help with the history section of the document.

The Commission reviewed the elements that they would like included in the site features section.

Mr. Carlberg noted that a similar sign should be created for North Woods Preserve.

Commissioner Faherty stated that she could follow a similar process and create a draft that the Commission could review at their next meeting.

Mr. Carlberg stated that if there are endangered plant species perhaps those could be listed on the signs.

Commissioner Jarson noted that information could be placed on the third side of the kiosk. It was agreed that rare plant and/or animal species could be listed on the third side.

Mr. Kytönen stated that perhaps the Subcommittee would like to meet to go over the details for the kiosk signage.

Chairperson Sabel stated that perhaps instead of placing a circle with a line through the bike picture there could be a picture of a walker or hiker.

PLAY CLEAN GO SIGNAGE UPDATE

Mr. Carlberg stated that the two signs and boot brushes were received. He stated that he was under the impression that the City had to provide the posts but noted that the City actually has to supply all the elements including the frame for the sign and the boot brush brackets.

Chairperson Sabel stated that the sign could be mounted in the kiosk and the boot brush could be installed near there.

Commissioner Van Hecke questioned if the people would use the boot brush if it were not near the entrance of the open space.

It was the consensus of the Commission to install the signage in the kiosk and mount the brush near that area.

ANDOVER FAMILY FUN FEST RECAP

Chairperson Sabel thanked those that attended and assisted at the Andover Family Fun Fest.

Commissioner Dirkswager stated that she received a lot of requests for printed maps of the open spaces.

Mr. Carlberg stated that there were printed maps in the box under the table and perhaps they did not get put out. He noted that the maps are also available on the City's website.

Commissioner Van Hecke stated that most of the resident questions were directed towards the Park and Recreation and Planning and Zoning Commissions.

Commissioner Dirkswager stated that she heard comments from residents asking when the next referendum would come forward as they would like more trails connecting to the open space areas and want to see more open space.

Mr. Carlberg thanked everyone that volunteered for the event.

OTHER BUSINESS

a. Next Meeting: September 14, 2016

It was the consensus of the Commission to conduct the next tour a bit earlier in the night to allow for more time commencing at 5:30 p.m. at the Dalske Woodlands open space.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Kovich Second by Commissioner Dirkswager to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Carlberg
Community Development Director

Drafted by:
Amanda Staple, Recording Secretary