City Council Communication

Departments: Parks and Recreation & Community Development CASE #CP-22-003 Applicant: City of Council Bluffs	Resolution No. _____	City Council: 8/22/22 Planning Commission: 8/9/2022

Subject/Title

Request: Public hearing on the request of the City of Council Bluffs to update Chapter 7 – Parks, Recreation, and Natural Features of the Bluffs Tomorrow: 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

Background

The Parks and Recreation Department recently collaborated with the Community Development Department to update Chapter 7 – Parks, Recreations, and Natural Features, of the Bluffs Tomorrow: 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The update was an internal effort amongst staff and was completed to ensure closer alignment between the Bluffs Tomorrow: 2030 Comprehensive Plan and the direction of the Parks and Recreation Department. The City's Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the proposed update Chapter 7 and recommended approval to City Council on March 8, 2022.

The framework and vision of Chapter 7 has remained the same; however the update is focused on effectively managing parks, open space and natural features, while providing community based recreation and access to parks for everyone. The updated Chapter has five sections, as follows:

1. The Missouri Riverfront, which discusses the importance of the river to the City and increasing public access to it. The River's Edge Development is also highlighted as a key aspect of the riverfront.
2. The Parks System, which identifies the parks, monuments, and landmarks in the City as well as non-city open space and parks. An updated Future Parks Map shows potential locations for new parks in the City and within our two-mile extraterritorial jurisdictional limit.
3. The Trail System, which discusses the reinvestment need to our existing trail system, as well as, trail amenities such as corridors and trail stop parks. An updated Future Trails Map is included in Chapter 7.
4. Recreation and Events, which highlights the City's approach to recreation and the partners we have within our community.
5. Natural Features and Open Space, which identifies the key natural areas within and near the City. Also included in the narrative is the use of pollinators within parks and the importance of developing a natural resources and features master plan.

Proposed changes to Chapter 7 include:

- The narrative about City's park system and trail system was expanded.
- A detailed overview of the City's reinvestment into our existing park and trail systems
- The Future Parks and Trails Maps were updated to reflect current planning efforts and interest to create a stronger connection among parks within the City and into the County.
- Recreation and Events are included in the update because since the completion of the Bluffs Tomorrow: 2030 Plan, a Recreation and Events Division was created and this division aligns closely with the City's mission which is to "continuously improve the quality of life and attractiveness of the City of Council Bluffs".

- The actions within the Comprehensive Plan were updated to reflect the City's attention on park and trail planning, and natural features planning.
- The re-emphasis on including trail development within the subdivision review process either by having developers construct new trails as part of their development or to "pay in lieu" of.

Once updated, Chapter 7 will become the overarching planning tool to guide the future development of parks and trails within the City. If circumstances arise or a significant change in the direction occurs for reasons unknown at this time, then the Parks and Recreation Department will work with the Community Development Department to amend or update Chapter 7 accordingly. Any future update process will include review and approval by the City's Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council.

Recommendation

The Community Development Department and the Parks and Recreation Department recommend approval to update Chapter 7 – Parks, Recreation, and Natural Features of the Bluffs Tomorrow: 2030 Comprehensive Plan, as shown in Attachment 'A'.

Public Hearing

Staff speakers for the request:

1. Vincent Martorello, Director of Parks and Recreations, City of Council Bluffs, 209 Pearl Street, Council Bluffs, IA 51503

2. Christopher Gibbons, Planning and Code Compliance Manager, City of Council Bluffs, 209 Pearl Street, Council Bluffs, IA 51503

Speakers in favor: None

Speakers against: None

Planning Commission Recommendation

The City Planning Commission recommended approval to update Chapter 7 – Parks, Recreation, and Natural Features of the Bluffs Tomorrow: 2030 Comprehensive Plan, as shown in Attachment 'A'.

VOTE: AYE – Bass, Halm, Hutcheson, Knauss, Opperman, Rater, Rew, Stroebele, and VanHouten. NAY - Scott ABSTAIN – None. ABSENT – Danielsen. VACANT – None. Motion: Carried.

Attachment

Attachment A: Chapter 7 – Parks, Recreation, and Natural Features (updated version)

Prepared by: Vincent Martorello, Director of Parks and Recreation Department