

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regular meeting of the Brainerd Park Board was called to order at 4:00 P.M. by Board President Yeager.

Present were President Kevin Yeager, Tim Boeder, Troy Rushmeyer and Kara Schaefer.

Also noted present were Mayor Badeaux, City Administrator Bergman, City Engineer Sandy, Recreation Coordinator Kaufman, Chris Sonmor from WSB and Lenora Zino from the Mid-Minnesota Women's Center.

Park Board President Yeager opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Approval of the Agenda - Approved

NEW BUSINESS ITEM 8C – ARTS IN THE PARKS WAS ADDED. MID-MN WOMEN'S CENTER MOVED TO 8A. MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS SCHAEFER AND RUSHMEYER, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA.

Approval of the Consent Calendar - Approved

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS RUSHMEYER AND BOEDER, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

- A. Approval of The Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 23, 2021**
- B. Approval of the Disbursements for April 2021**
- C. Approval of New Hires**

Presentations

- A. Rotary Park Natural Trails and 2021 Rotary Park Pavilion Construction – Pete Nelson and John Forrest - Approved**

Mr. Sandy introduced Rotary representatives John Forrest and Pete Nelson, co-chairs of the Rotary Riverside Park Committee, who were there to present ideas regarding natural trails and the 2021 pavilion construction.

John Forrest, 159 Pineview Drive, Brainerd, took the floor. He presented an aerial map of the trail system which is already walkable and will remain unpaved. There are almost two miles of natural surface trails which he would like to see designated as a City trail and included in the City's trail system. He believes Rotary Riverside Park is the third largest municipal park in the State of Minnesota, and it is intended to be a natural park. He met with the chair of the Walkable Bikeable Committee and they walked Rotary Riverside Park trails. Ms. Bergman attended the Walkable Bikeable Committee meeting and reported that the committee wrote a letter of support for Mr. Forrest's proposal.

The Chair recognized Mr. Pete Nelson.

Pete Nelson, 13690 Vista Oaks Drive, Pillager, took the floor. He presented the Rotary Club's guiding vision for this natural urban retreat within the City of Brainerd. He provided an overview of land acquisition that now totals about 195 acres and includes over 5,000 feet of shoreline along the Mississippi River and 1,250 feet on Little Buffalo Creek. The Brainerd Rotary Club worked hard the first few years to develop the trails that they still maintain and mow. The Field of Seeds project spearheaded by Mr. Forrest and Mr. Nelson received statewide recognition from Soil and Water Conservation groups. The Field of Seeds was developed to enhance a pollinator habitat and serve as a future seed bank for others who want to develop natural areas. In 2019-2020 the entrance to the park was constructed entirely by Rotarians. They have a forest management plan and have started some reforestation. The Brainerd Rotary Club is 100 years old this year and construction has begun on the gathering place which is the Club's Centennial Project. Future developments within the park will be coordinated with the City of Brainerd and the Park Board. In 2022 they hope to put in a fireplace at the end of the pavilion and pave the parking area. A site plan was provided. Along with the pavilion, the next thing they will look at will be restrooms and electricity. Trail connectivity, a bridge over Little Buffalo Creek and a boardwalk over low-lying areas are some possible future projects. He encouraged the Park Board to look at the Rotary Park Master Plan on their website. He indicated that some projects are large enough in scope to be difficult for the Rotary Club to take on itself and would like to see collaboration with Central Lakes College and the MN DNR as well as the City of Brainerd.

Board members expressed appreciation for all the Rotary Club has done for the park system and look forward to future collaboration. Mr. Sandy would like to see the Rotary Park trails added to the city mapping system and have our maintenance staff remove any deadfall and brush and mow the trails twice a year.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS BOEDER AND SCHAEFER, DULY CARRIED, TO MAINTAIN THE SAFETY OF THE ROTARY RIVERSIDE PARK TRAILS TWICE A YEAR BY REMOVING DEADFALL, BRUSHING AND MOWING.

Unfinished Business

Request to Approve Restroom Facility Security Plan - Approved

Staff met with Interim Police Chief Mike Bestul who was around when the Police Department used to lock the park restrooms on behalf of the Parks Department. He volunteered his CSOs to lock restroom facilities at park close at 10:00 p.m. each night. He sees it as a double benefit. It gets more police activity in the parks which will help to reduce vandalism, and they can also clear people out of the restrooms after hours when locking up. Park maintenance staff will open the restrooms each morning.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS RUSHMEYER AND SCHAEFER, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE RESTROOM FACILITY SECURITY PLAN AS PRESENTED.

Consideration of Warming House Change and Construction of Alternate 1 for Memorial Park Redevelopment Project - Approved

Mr. Sandy recapped the base bid that was previously awarded by the Park Board for the Memorial Park Redevelopment Project. Alternate 1 included construction of the small rink and some Sourcewell items. At the first project meeting held today, the potential to change the warming house building from stick built to CMU block was discussed. Information from the contractor indicates that pricing for CMU block is not going to be in the City's favor, and they are also running into time constraints. Mr. Sandy said they plan to dig footings the middle of May, and

April 27, 2021

such a large change to a building design would most likely change everything from the ground up. Staff's revised recommendation to the Board is to stick with what is in the plan for a stick built building, noting there may still be the opportunity to go to a steel roof, and to award Alternate 1, getting the small rink plumbed and ready to go and budget for the boards and lights in the future. Mr. Sonmor did not think the change to a steel roof would be a significant difference in cost.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS RUSHMEYER AND BOEDER, DULY CARRIED, TO AWARD ALTERNATE 1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$77,791, AND SEEK A COST ON THE CHANGE ORDER FOR A STEEL ROOF.

Discussion of YMCA and CE 1st Quarterly Reports – Discussion

First quarter programming reports were received from ISD 181 Community Education and the YMCA. Ms. Kaufman asked if there was any discussion and if this is what the Park Board is looking for in the quarterly reports. The reports will help staff and the Board decide if changes are needed for 2022 and to track participant numbers. Ms. Kaufman said that registration just recently opened, so the second quarter report will have much more information.

New Business

Request to Review and Approve Mid-MN Women's Center Event - Approved

The Chair recognized Lenora Zino, Community Relations and Volunteer Coordinator for the Mid-Minnesota Women's Center. She submitted a request for the use of Lum Park and Pavilion 1 for their upcoming Family Fun Day on August 15, from approximately 1-6 p.m. The 2020 event was cancelled due to COVID-19, but she gave an overview of the 2019 event. They will partner with the Ski Loons again this year, who have a show at 5:00 p.m. This is a free family event to give back to the community. There will be food, games, activities, and interaction with local emergency response personnel. Ms. Zino stated they have plenty of security at the event and will be sure to follow the COVID-19 guidelines in place at that time. Mr. Rushmeyer would like a COVID-19 preparedness plan. Mr. Sandy suggested to approve the event contingent upon receipt of the Mid-Minnesota Women's Center Preparedness Plan.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS BOEDER AND SCHAEFER, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE MID-MN WOMEN'S CENTER'S FAMILY FUN DAY CONTINGENT UPON RECEIPT OF THE ORGANIZATION'S COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN, AS PRESENTED.

Accept with Regret the Resignation of Park Board Member Dale Parks – Approved

Mr. Parks resigned from the Park Board effective April 9, 2021. The Mayor and City Council presented him the Community Member of the Month award at the last City Council meeting. Mr. Parks has served in many capacities in City government and will be missed.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS SCHAEFER AND BOEDER, DULY CARRIED, TO ACCEPT WITH REGRET THE RESIGNATION OF PARK BOARD MEMBER DALE PARKS.

Arts in the Park – Discussion

Mr. Badeaux explained that Community Action has not submitted an event application for Arts in the Park in the past. They are moving forward with the June 27 event this year and have paid the pavilion rental fees. He wanted to bring it before the Board at a public meeting in the April 27, 2021

event there were any questions or requests to do anything differently than what has been done in the past. Community Action plans to use its 2020 COVID-19 Preparedness Plan that will space things out and people will wear masks when working within their booths. A small seating area will be provided for people to eat at, which will be disinfected frequently. As previously approved by the Park Board, vehicles will only be allowed in the park for set-up and tear-down. Mr. Badeaux asked if Community Action should submit an event request for future years. Ms. Kaufman said yes, and staff is working on a streamlined event application form.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS RUSHMEYER AND SCHAEFER, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE ARTS IN THE PARK EVENT CONTINGENT UPON RECEIPT OF THE ORGANIZATION'S COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN, AND TO FOLLOW THE PARKING GUIDELINES PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED BY THE PARK BOARD.

Public Forum

The Chair opened the public forum at 5:17 p.m.

No one came forward.

The Chair closed the public forum at 5:17 p.m.

City Engineer and Recreation Coordinator Report

Ms. Kaufman had nothing to add to her written report. Mr. Rushmeyer asked about food truck availability on Fridays for BBBA games at Bane Park, which Ms. Kaufman will follow up on.

Mr. Sandy mentioned the "Name the Snowplow" event in addition to his written report. It may be expanded next year to name summer Parks Department equipment. The Board requested there be a Memorial Park Groundbreaking Ceremony scheduled for 3:30 p.m. prior to the May 11 special meeting.

Mayor Badeaux would like to see information get out to the public about the trees that will be planted as part of the 2021 budget plan, and for the Board to start thinking budget planning for 2022. Mr. Sandy has already been working on the equipment side of this.

Mr. Rushmeyer noted that youth baseball umpire David "Jonesy" Jones will probably not be able to ump anymore due to health reasons. He umpired for us for 35 years and Mr. Rushmeyer had an individual approach him about the possibility of naming one of the ballfields "Jonesy Field". On another note, ISD 181 has revised its fee schedule to begin charging youth teams \$50 per practice or game, and the Brainerd-Baxter Baseball Association is working to try to alleviate this situation.

Adjourn

MOVED AND SECONDED AT 5:43 P.M. BY BOEDER AND SCHAEFER, DULY CARRIED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING TO THE MAY 11, 2021, 3:30 P.M. MEMORIAL PARK GROUNDBREAKING AND 4:00 P.M. SPECIAL MEETING.

Kim Finch
Administrative Specialist

April 27, 2021