

# Parks and Recreation Report

September 2019

- The Park Board approved the 2020 Parks and Recreation Department's budget and it will be submitted to the City Council to be part of the City's budget discussions.
- Special Park Board meetings will take place on a weekly basis at Widseth Smith Nolting through Oct. 1 to discuss the scope of the proposed Memorial Park project.
- The Park Board approved increasing the youth baseball state qualifier team registration fees from \$375 to \$400 and to increase umpire pay rates from \$35 to \$45 for 10U and 11U tournaments, and from \$40 to \$50 for 12U through 14U tournaments. Staff struggled to find umpires for tournaments this year because of the low per game rates. Based on the number of tournament teams this year, increasing the registration fee would result in \$1,550 in revenue and increasing the umpire pay rates would be an expense of \$1,510.
- Parks maintenance employee Joe Koering was honored with the Innovation Award at the City's annual picnic on Aug. 13. Joe was nominated for "an amazing work ethic and out-of-the-box problem solving." Joe has created numerous things in-house such as dog park equipment/play structures, snow blower attachments, scoreboard brackets and numerous other mechanical/welding solutions that has saved the department a considerable amount of money.
- The Parks and Recreation Department received a \$2,500 grant from Crow Wing Energized. Funds will be used to place distance along the Buffalo Hills Trail from Buffalo Hills-Lions Park to Bane Park along. Any excess funds may be used to install benches along the trail.

- Staff installed cement pads at the entrance of Buster Park. Because of heavy foot traffic the entrance was often muddy or had standing water, especially in the spring and after heavy rains, which most of the dogs didn't mind, but their owners did!

- Brainerd Public Utilities will install three light poles around the perimeter of Buster Park. Many users have requested lights at the dog park since it gets dark by 5 p.m. during the winter months making it difficult to use facility. Park Dedication funds will be used to fund the lighting project.





- About 150 youths participated in the free night of bowling and pizza at Jack's House on July 25. Funds for the event were provided by Minnesota Charitable Gambling. Ginger Lorentz said Jack's House served 25 large pizzas and she probably could have made 10 more. She hopes to make this an annual event for youths in the Miracle League and competitive youth softball and baseball leagues.
- The underground plumbing has been installed, the foundation set, concrete floor poured, and pillars built at the Gregory Park warming house. The framing has started. The project is scheduled to be completed in time for the Great Pumpkin Festival on Oct. 12.
- Eight teams participated in the state Co-Rec tournament on Aug. 24 and five teams played in the Masters state tournament on Aug. 25. Both tournaments were played at Memorial Park.