

BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Regular Park Board Meeting
February 25, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.
Crow Wing County Courthouse-3rd floor-326 Laurel Street, Brainerd

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regular meeting of the
Parks and Recreation Board was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Present were President Kara Schaefer, Tim Boeder, Dale Parks, Troy Rushmeyer, Kevin Yeager, City Council Liaison Dave Badeaux and Park Director Tony Sailer.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Parks was sworn in for another five-year term on the Brainerd Parks and Recreation Board.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

See Item "C" under New Business

**MOVED AND SECONDED BY PARKS AND BOEDER,
DULY CARRIED TO APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PRESENTED**

- A. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held January 28, 2020**
- B. Approval of the disbursements for the month of February 2020**

OLD BUSINESS

A. Mississippi Landing

Mr. Sailer introduced Ashley Kaisershot from Sourcewell, who turned the floor over to Community Development Director David Chanski. Mr. Chanski is overseeing the City's part of the Mississippi Landing Trailhead Park project and asked board members to review and approve the conceptual plan so the committee can pursue funding. Holly Nelson from the National Park Service and Ms. Kaisershot presented a slideshow overview of the proposed project. Don Gorham briefly explained the project phases. Board members had previously expressed support for the project at the December 17, 2019, meeting but no formal action was taken at that time. Mr. Parks and Mr. Yeager questioned where the money for additional maintenance costs and future capital expenses would come from, and asked if ISD 181 and CLC would help with maintenance costs if they use the facility for outdoor education classes. This has not been explored, but Park Maintenance staff would be responsible for daily maintenance of the restrooms, garbage collection and mowing. Mr. Boeder made a motion to approve the proposed conceptual plan for the Mississippi Landing Trailhead Park, with the stipulation that the Park Board be involved as plans proceed. Mr. Parks seconded and further discussion followed. The motion passed 4-1, with Mr. Yeager opposed. A letter of support for grant application purposes will be provided from the Park Board.

B. Ski Loons Contract

Rice Lake residents Wayne and Stacey Harting reported that the changes the Brainerd Ski Loons made in 2019 were favorable, and thought things went well last season. They had a couple of requests for the 2020 season, but club president Chris Dens didn't think they would be able to accommodate them. Use of Rice Lake is not the Park Board's jurisdiction. Mr. Parks made a motion to approve an updated contract for the 2020 season with no changes except dates; Mr. Rushmeyer seconded and board approval was unanimous.

C. Memorial Park Lease

City Administrator Jennifer Bergman reported that the City of Brainerd made an offer to purchase the Memorial Park parking lot from Brainerd Land, LLC, in January. A counter offer was received and will be discussed at a closed session at the March 2 City Council meeting.

D. Memorial Park Project

Staff met with Widseth Smith Nolting to get estimated project costs, which was provided to the Board. Mr. Yeager expressed concern at WSN's project fees which were not accounted for in initial costs for the project, and asked if RFP's should be done. The Department has the conceptual plans from the 2019 \$20,000 scoping project done by WSN, and will be using the blueprint from the Gregory Park warming house building. Board members didn't think they were required to retain WSN for the project, but asked Ms. Bergman to verify this in the scoping project agreement. Mr. Yeager made a motion to have staff create an RFP to potential bidders for the scope of work that WSN presented. Mr. Rushmeyer seconded and board approval was unanimous.

E. Children's Museum

Ms. Bergman reported that the City Council has committed up to \$20,000 for a master plan for Lum Park for the Children's Museum committee. Council provided a letter of intent to museum organizers. A steering committee will need to be formed and would include Mr. Sailer, Mr. Badaeux, and a Park Board member. The letter of intent allows the Children's Museum organizers to present a plan; it does not represent a commitment to the project by the City. Mr. Badaeux expressed concern about the risk of having a large building constructed in the park. If the museum were to fail the City would be left with a facility it doesn't have a use for.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Youth Tennis Program

Staff reported a youth tennis program will be offered at Gregory Park for ages 6-7 and 8-9, with a maximum of eight participants per age group. Mr. Sailer also mentioned the opportunity to offer basketball and pickleball for youth when the Memorial Park facility is built.

Mr. Rushmeyer commented that Parks and Recreation may not be the best place for youth programming. He said that perhaps the Board needs to look at this differently and maybe Community Education and associations are the way to go.

B. Forest Pest Survey

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's 2019 forest pest survey results included sites at Lum and Rotary parks. None of the 15 exotic bark and woodboring beetles included in the survey, or Ash Yellows and Chalara dieback were found at the Brainerd sites. Staff would like to offer sites in Brainerd for the 2020 survey.

C. Rotary Riverside Park Signage

Staff reported that the archway entrance to Rotary Riverside Park is almost complete, and the Rotary Club is asking the Park Board to approve etched signs that will be inlaid in the rockwork around the base of the entrance. Mr. Parks made a motion to approve, Mr. Boeder seconded and board approval was unanimous.

PUBLIC FORUM

None

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Ms. Bergman had nothing further to report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The Parks Department was awarded an AED unit from the St. Joseph's Foundation for placement at the Gregory Park warming house. During the summer months when the warming house is locked for general public use, a representative from The Center's tennis and pickleball leagues will be provided with a key in the event the AED is needed.
- The Santa Paws event at Buster Park was one of six unique outdoor events featured in the winter edition of the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association magazine.
- The Smooch A Pooch event at Buster Park was attended by 25 dogs and their owners and the annual skating party at Gregory Park had 190 attendees. Both events were Feb. 15.
- The Pond Hockey Jamboree took place from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Feb. 23 at the Gold Medal Arena at the Essentia Sports Center.
- The Adult Pond Hockey championship was moved from Bane Park to Mill Avenue Park on Feb. 25.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 24, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. at the Crow Wing County Courthouse (3rd floor) at 326 Laurel Street, Brainerd.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:45 p.m. was made by Mr. Boeder and seconded by Mr. Yeager. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist