

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the special meeting of the Brainerd Park Board was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Board President Shipe.

Upon roll call, the following board members were noted present: Miller, Schaefer, Shipe, Yeager, and Rushmeyer.

Also noted present were City Engineer/Public Works Director Dehn and Recreation Coordinator Kaufman.

Approval of the Agenda - Approved

MOVED AND SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBERS YEAGER AND SCHAEFER, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

Unfinished Business

A. Master Park Planning

Hitch-Wayne Park:

After discussing this park, the board decided this park should stay as is and continue using as a sledding hill in the winter. The board is open to staff discussing with Central Lakes College if they could use the park for any environment studies. Hitch-Wayne will be considered an undeveloped nature park. Board is fine leaving the sign for this park as is.

Evergreen Landing:

Evergreen Landing is a parcel of land that has some unique trails but is often under water due to the Mississippi River flooding. This would not be a good location for any structures. Ideally, it could be a great location for cross country ski trails or snowshoe trails. For now, the board would like to leave this park as is and keep it in mind for some winter trails in the future. Again, this is another undeveloped nature park.

Gustafson Park:

Director Dehn commented that this is one of the parks that has not been dedicated to the Park Board yet. The city is keeping this as an option to develop for housing. Knowing that, Dehn wanted the board to be aware prior to doing much planning or spending a lot of time on this park. It is an official park, but there have not been any Federal dollars used for this park that would keep it a designated park in perpetuity.

The board did put some thoughts down for a Master Plan; adding some picnic benches, shade trees, keep the t-ball field on the south corner, and the other side open for soccer or football. They are not thinking big playground equipment, but structures that kids can climb, crawl, play on and a couple of swings. Trees and berms may be a nice addition between homes and the park. If these improvements were to happen, the Board thinks the sign should be updated to be a little bigger for the Park. Mr. Yeager will take these ideas back and draw up a proposed Master Plan.

B. Discussion on Concessions in the Parks

Director Dehn started this conversation on what does concessions in our parks look like for the future. Katie Kaufman, Recreation Coordinator, asks the question, "are we are helping our community by selling concessions?" Just increasing prices does not mean we will make more
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money, as demand will go down. Katie plans to reduce her purchases by eliminating some choices. She will raise prices slightly, but knowing if prices go too high, sales will drop. At the end of the day, she needs guidance from the board if they want concessions at all the parks. Staffing the concession stand is challenging. Finding consistent employees to work is hard, and it is almost impossible to find a dependable volunteer. We have paid for our MN Department of Health licenses for all concession stands for the upcoming 2023 season. The city will be using POS tablets for the stands and accepting credit cards for payment this year.

The consensus of the board is they want to see concessions continue as it has been at all three parks, raise prices as needed, reduce some items that don't sell as well. Discussion was had on potential for a mobile food truck that could work the games, but also be available for special events like our Grand Opening at Lyman P. White park.

The Memorial concession stand was flagged for the flooring at the last inspection. Rough estimate for the epoxy flooring is approximately \$10,000 each stand. Rushmeyer asked if we could break out each concession stand as far as money coming in versus expenses going out. It may help us gauge things in the future to see which stands profit the best.

Offerings: Looking at Katie's packet of information, she proposes to cut Cheddar brats, Choco Tacos, 20 oz Fruit Punch Power Ade, Orange Fanta, Sprite, Barqs Rootbeer, Killer Kiwi and Red Dawg Monster Hydro. Candy reductions would be Dubble Bubble, Blow Pops, Tootsie Rolls, Mega Lollie, Fruit Snacks, M&M's, Fluffy Cotton Candy, Original Seeds. The board thinks she could raise prices a little bit on candy. Katie let the board know if anyone had specific price adjustments they feel should be made, they can email her that information.

The board mentioned a local name, Scott Erlandson, to reach out to for the Epoxy work at Memorial Field, but hopefully they can find someone with availability in their schedule. Dehn will talk to Connie regarding where we can find the money in the budget for the flooring. The board is hopeful that reducing some offerings, raising some prices and accepting credit cards will help to get the concessions closer to a break even mark. Going forward with the POS system, we hope to have better reporting on each park's concession stands as well as what is selling best.

Adjourn

MOVED AND SECONDED BY SHIPE AND YEAGER, DULY CARRIED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:45 P.M. TO REGULAR PARK BOARD MEETING ON MARCH 28, 2023. PARK BOARD TO MEET WITH WIDSETH PRIOR TO REGULAR MEETING FOR SITE VISITS. 3:00 P.M. AT LUM PARK CAMPGROUND AND 3:30 PM AT JAYCEES PARK, RETURNING TO CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS FOR THE 4:00 MEETING.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cari LaRose, Administrative Specialist

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