

BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Special Park Board Meeting
May 2, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.
City Hall Conference Room

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the special meeting of the
Parks and Recreation Board was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present were President Troy Rushmeyer, Dale Parks, Kevin Yeager and Park Director Tony Sailer. Also noted present were Dr. Christopher Dens, Wayne and Stacey Harting, Finance Director Connie Hillman, Community Development Director David Chanski and City Council President Gabe Johnson. Kara Schaefer, Tim Boeder and City Council Liaison Dave Badeaux were noted absent.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Brainerd Ski Loons

Mr. Sailer reported that Dr. Dens and the Hartings had a private meeting to discuss the concerns brought up at previous board meetings regarding the Brainerd Ski Loons, and had arrived at a tentative agreement. A printed copy was distributed to board members and Mr. Sailer went over it at the meeting. The Hartings and Dr. Dens plan to meet again toward the end of June or early July to discuss how it is going.

The City Attorney recommends that the Ski Loons donate its dock to the City of Brainerd, citing that a private entity should not be allowed to have a dock on public property, and also for liability reasons. This would mean that the city would be responsible for placement and removal of the dock, and also maintenance if something needed to be repaired. Ms. Hillman added that the city must be named as "additional insured" regardless of who owns the dock. Dr. Dens stated the Ski Loons Club is hesitant to donate the dock to the city unless certain assurances are in place, including, but not limited to, the proper placement of the dock for the club, ongoing maintenance, and the assurance the city would not use the dock for another purpose. The City Council would have to accept the donation and the cost of maintaining the dock. An agreement would need to be drawn up between the two parties to address everything being discussed. Mr. Parks made a motion to accept the City Attorney's recommendation that the Brainerd Ski Loons donate the dock to the City of Brainerd, and that staff work with the Ski Loons to satisfy the City Attorney's recommendations. There was no second. Mr. Yeager expressed concern about maintenance costs involved with accepting the donation. Based on experience with existing city-owned docks, Mr. Sailer did not feel that dock maintenance would create a financial issue; however, he pointed out that the city does not have a boat so the club would still need to be involved with dock placement and removal. At this point Mr. Johnson suggested the possibility of the city leasing the dock from the Ski Loons for \$1.00 per year and incorporating that lease into the annual agreement drafted by the City Attorney that could include everything involving the Ski Loons' operations and use of city facilities. The club would retain ownership and maintenance responsibilities for the dock. Dr. Dens was receptive to the idea. Board members favored the lease idea, and Mr. Parks withdrew his motion. The item was tabled until the May meeting to allow staff to consult with the City Attorney about the lease option within an annual agreement.

The City Attorney recommends that the Ski Loons pay a nominal fee for storing equipment in the Lum Park beach house. Mr. Sailer noted that standard park rental fees are no longer waived for non-profit entities, but the one small room the ski club is using has no amenities and is simply storage space the department is not using. Mr. Rushmeyer brought up Mr. Boeder's thoughts at the March meeting about how there should be some sort of revenue benefit for the Parks Department from having the Ski Loons at Lum Park. After a brief discussion Mr. Yeager made a motion that the lease of the storage room to the Ski Loons be free of charge if it can be tied in with the annual agreement. Mr. Parks seconded and board approval was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Children's Museum

The chair recognized Community Development Director David Chanski. Mr. Chanski shared that the city was approached by Region Five Development about its proposed Children's Museum. Region Five has a master plan for the project and is now in the process of finding a location. They have conducted site visits throughout the region, and met locally with Mr. Chanski, City Administrator Cassandra Torstenson and City Council members Gabe Johnson and David Badeaux about sites in Brainerd that might suit their needs. Lum Park was one of the sites the museum organizers sent a Request for Proposal. Mr. Chanski stated that Mr. Sailer brought it to his attention that the City Charter gives the Park Board jurisdiction of park facilities and grounds. Therefore, he is seeking Park Board approval to submit the RFP for Lum Park to be considered as a site for the future Children's Museum. City Council has already reviewed and approved submitting an RFP. The Lum Park site proposal would include the site of the present Lum Park office, possibly co-locating with Parks staff and working with them on programming opportunities. Following the presentation and discussion, Mr. Johnson informed the group that the museum is likely four to five years away, and the RFP process is very preliminary. The Lum Park site will be considered by Region Five along with RFP's from many other communities within the region. Mr. Sailer's primary concern was if the presence of the museum would affect any other amenities at Lum Park, such as the Disc Golf Course, Lum Park Campground, boat trailer parking and others. Mr. Johnson stated that the park would remain as is. Mr. Parks made a motion to accept the City Council recommendation to support the Lum Park location as a possible site for the Region Five Development's Children's Museum. Mr. Yeager seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

PUBLIC FORUM

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made at 4:55 p.m. by Mr. Parks. Mr. Yeager seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist