

BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Regular Park Board Meeting
October 23, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.
City Hall Conference Room

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

Present were President Tim Boeder, Jackie Burkey, Dale Parks, Troy Rushmeyer, Kara Schaefer, and Park Director Tony Sailer. Also noted present was City Administrator Cassandra Torstenson. City Council Liaison Dave Badeaux was absent.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

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

- A. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held September 25, 2018**
- B. Approval of the disbursements for the month of October 2018**

OLD BUSINESS

A. Park Tours

Following a city-wide facility study, each Park Board member was directed by City Council Liaison Badeaux to physically evaluate one or more parks. They were asked to report their findings and offer suggestions for improvements and/or increased programming or revenue potential. Mr. Rushmeyer reported on Bane and Lum parks. At Bane Park he suggested using the Miracle League Field for a wiffle ball league, and he saw potential for volleyball in the area down below the fields, though balls could end up in the street. One thing he would like to see is a second batting cage, which would be especially useful for tournament weekends. At Lum Park he found the beach area to be an eyesore, which he remembers as being a pretty nice area in years past. There is a lot of overgrowth near the beach, and the lake around the fishing pier needs to be cleared of weeds and sludge. The east end of the park has very old swingsets and some ugly looking trees. He suggested adding trees and the possibility of additional campsites.

Mr. Parks reported on Jaycees Park. He didn't think the area behind the ball fields would be a good spot for activities because of security issues, and the Pine Street side of the park can be quite low and very wet, though he thought volleyball might be an option. Ms. Torstenson interjected that she thought horseshoe pits might be a possibility at Jaycees Park.

Ms. Schaefer reported on Kiwanis and Buffalo Hills-Lions parks. She stated the ramp to the Kiwanis Park fishing pier needs to be wheelchair accessible, and she also thought that volleyball and/or horseshoes could be incorporated at that park. She didn't report on Buster Park, as the department is already working on improvements to the dog park. For Buffalo Hills-Lions Park she would like to see swings, horseshoes, and a possible partnership with Crow Wing Energized to create raised beds for neighborhood residents to plant flowers or vegetables.

Ms. Burkey reported on Gregory Park, where she has planted and maintained flowers for years. She stated that the warming house and Center Court area need to be ADA compliant. There is a good chance the building will be replaced in 2019 with Capital Improvement funds, but there are sunken pavers in the Center Court that could be hazardous, as well as sidewalk issues. The historic bandstand needs some wood fixes and painting, and sidewalk edges get bad from department vehicles driving on them. Mr. Sailer said sidewalk edges should probably be filled in every other year. Ms. Burkey would like to see vegetation pruned and suckers removed, to generate healthier growth. The

basketball court is very old, but is used anyway. She questioned why the pop machine only has water and Powerade in it. Mr. Sailer stated that staff was offering healthier alternatives to pop.

Mr. Boeder reported on Mill Avenue and Memorial parks. He said until we know the future of the lease situation at Mill Avenue Park, there would be no point in making planned improvements to the hockey rinks and warming house building. At Memorial Park, he commented on all the recent improvements including new bathroom and concession buildings, new fencing, and lights on Field 3. There are areas where the outfield fencing does not reach the ground, and this is an issue that the department is currently working on. He reported that all the scoreboards are very old and don't work 30-40 percent of the time. Mr. Sailer included three new scoreboards in the 2019 budget requests. Mr. Boeder wondered if there would be space for another field, possibly where the former soccer field is, if the department loses the use of Mill Avenue Park. He has also been hearing requests for pickleball courts, and wondered if there might be a space for those at Memorial Park.

B. Ski Loons

Mr. Sailer visited with Chris Dens, President of the Brainerd Ski Loons, about what the club can do to alleviate issues brought to the Park Board's attention by homeowners that live next to Lum Park. Wayne and Stacey Harting were in attendance. Park Board members previously viewed a video the Hartings made to demonstrate how close the skiers repeatedly go past their neighbor's dock almost every evening throughout the summer. Dr. Dens will be meeting with others in the club to discuss moving the Ski Loons' dock closer to the beach, changing the angle of the dock and moving the beginner lessons that take place two evenings per week to another location. All concerns will be worked on this winter.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Park Board Member Term Expires

Jackie Burkey's term expires on December 31, and she does not plan to remain on the board. Mr. Sailer thanked her for her many years of service and expertise. She still intends to "keep an eye" on Gregory Park and plant flowers there. Mr. Sailer will inform the City Council of the upcoming board vacancy.

B. Memorial Park Monument

Staff met with an individual who is proposing a World War II monument to be placed at Memorial Park. The Brainerd VFW and Disabled American Veterans will fund the project. A design was presented, with the monument to be placed between the parking lot and playground. Ms. Schaefer made a motion to approve the proposed monument, Mr. Rushmeyer seconded and board approval was unanimous.

PUBLIC FORUM

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The City Administrator reported that the City Council is requiring board president Tim Boeder to present the Park Board budget at the budget workshop on November 13. She added that all board and commission chairs are under the directive to present their respective budgets. Mr. Boeder will present the Park Board's budget as requested. Ms. Torstenson also presented a few programming ideas the Director and Recreation Specialist brought back from the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association conference they recently attended.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Matt Soukup, along with other volunteers, constructed a pergola in Gregory Park on October 13. The project was the final step needed for Mr. Soukup to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.
- The 12th annual Great Pumpkin Festival took place in Gregory Park on October 13. Approximately 200 people braved cool temperatures, wind and occasional mist.
- The fall kickball season concluded October 16 and the fall adult softball season ended October 22.
- The maintenance crew spent the past month winterizing water lines, buildings and equipment; reorganizing the storage building, washing and storing garbage containers, painting the sign at Laurel and South 6th streets, storing picnic tables and covering flower beds throughout the park system.
- The Gregory Park archway is being repaired and shingles will soon be replaced at Lum Park pavilion #2 and the Mills Field garage.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at the Conference Room at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:00 p.m. was made by Mr. Parks and seconded by Ms. Burkey. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist