

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

Upon roll call, the following members were noted as present: Boeder, Schaefer, Shipe, Yeager and Rushmeyer. City Council Liaison Dave Badeaux was noted absent.

Also noted present were City Engineer Sandy, Recreation Coordinator Kaufman, Chris Sonmor from WSB, and Chris Dens from the Brainerd Ski Loons.

Board President Rushmeyer opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Approval of the Agenda - Approved

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS YEAGER AND SHIPE, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION OF ITEM 8E – CAMPGROUND HOST DISCUSSION.

Approval of the Consent Calendar - Approved

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS SHIPE AND SCHAEFER, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 25, 2022

B. Approval of the Disbursements for February 2022

Presentations

Krista Soukup, President of the Brainerd Northside Neighborhood Association, stated the neighborhood association would like to partner with the City and provide support to their parks. Chuck Marohn, 616 North 4th Street, shared a slide presentation that highlighted improvements the BNNA would like to make at Gregory and Triangle parks. The neighborhood group would like to work on adding plantings and other amenities in Triangle Park. Projects they are proposing to take leadership on in Gregory Park would be to trim trees and shrubs, move and plant trees, relocate benches, have “No Parking” signs installed along Juniper Street to restrict parking from dusk to dawn, stating they have witnessed illegal activity after dark, modify lighting in the park, particularly on the warming house, to reduce shadows that tend to conceal people that may be sitting under the pavilion after dusk, and work with neighborhood art groups to do signage and art throughout the park. Their theory is that engaging youth groups to take ownership of the space will reduce vandalism. They are asking how to get permission to work on the seven projects they have identified and Mr. Marohn stated they are not asking for money, time, or resources from the Park Board. They are willing to do their own fundraising to make these things happen. In the future they would like to have a more active partnership between the BNNA and the City, and at some point the BNNA would like to take the lead on master planning, fundraising and management of Gregory Park. Mr. Boeder asked what the BNNA’s position was when the Splash Pad was moved from Gregory Park to Memorial Park. Mr. Marohn replied that whatever feedback the Park Board got was not from the BNNA as they really did not have the opportunity to weigh in on it. He did acknowledge there were a lot of park neighbors including himself who didn’t feel a splash pad in
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Gregory Park was the best use of that space. They feel the strength of Gregory Park is less about active uses and more about passive uses. Mr. Rushmeyer thanked the BNNA members for their time and requested a condensed version of today's presentation that could be used for upcoming master planning. Mr. Shipe asked if there would be liability concerns if the BNNA was allowed to come in to trim shrubs or move trees. Mr. Sandy would need to check with the City Attorney about liability and determine which trees can be moved without damaging them. Board members are willing to work with neighborhood groups as they move forward with master planning and thanked the BNNA for their presentation.

Unfinished Business

Approve Final Pay Application for Memorial Park Construction - Approved

Mr. Sonmor provided the final pay voucher for the Memorial Park project. He reported that the last few punch items have been taken care of. Maintenance staff has been able to build up some ice on the north end of the hockey rink by laying insulated panels on the ice to keep the sun from reflecting off the boards which is what causes the ice to melt. Mr. Boeder again expressed dismay about the condition of the ice on this rink, reiterating that the water runs south rather than staying by the north boards. Mr. Sandy said a lot of research has been done, they have been able to maintain ice, it was a very short ice season, it is our first time flooding on concrete, and they have learned a lot of things this year. He asked that the Board hold off on making judgment on the ice conditions this year because he thinks once they have a full season to apply what they have learned the ice will be much better. They have talked to other cities that flood on concrete and they have the same issues. It is not a construction issue in his opinion.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS BOEDER AND SCHAEFER, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE FINAL PAY VOUCHER FOR THE MEMORIAL PARK PROJECT AS PRESENTED.

Discussion of Jaycees Park – Discussion

This is a continuation of the discussion from the January 25 meeting about playground placement. Mr. Sandy is seeking the Park Board's overall vision for Jaycees Park to make sure this playground is placed in the right location. Mr. Shipe submitted some ideas with the packet and renderings of the playground equipment were provided. Mr. Shipe thinks a future hockey rink is a fixed location because of the existing warming house building. Mr. Yeager suggested scheduling workshop style meetings to work on plans for each park, beginning with Jaycees Park because of the playground project. Discussion tabled to New Item 8C – Request to Self-Perform Master Planning for Parks.

New Business

Approve Tree Removal Scope for Mississippi Landing Trailhead Park - Approved

Through the PMT process, it was recommended to selectively remove trees near the shoreline to provide access to the river. Due to the presence of a species of bat, the DNR recommends removing trees prior to March 31 before the nesting season begins. Mr. Sonmor sought quotes and would like authorization to move forward with the planned tree removals before March 31. One quote was received from Shawn Pratt for \$19,750. Drawings were included and they have identified which trees to save. Stumps and root systems are left which is typical on riverbanks for stabilization. Some larger cottonwoods are questionable for removal at this time, and there will be other trees planted as part of the project.

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MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS BOEDER AND SCHAEFER, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE TREE REMOVAL SCOPE FOR MISSISSIPPI LANDING TRAILHEAD PARK AS PRESENTED.

Review and Approve 2022 Ski Loons Lease Agreement - Approved

The Chair recognized Chris Dens, who is seeking to renew the Brainerd Ski Loons contract. He is asking to reserve the far east picnic shelter for selling concessions on the four show dates. Staff was directed to make a sign to post on the shelter on Ski Loons show dates.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS YEAGER AND SHIPE, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE BRAINERD SKI LOONS AGREEMENT AS PRESENTED, EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2022, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2023, WITH NO CONDITIONS ATTACHED.

Request to Self-Perform Master Planning for Parks - Discussion

Mr. Yeager would like the Park Board to set meeting dates for master planning, beginning with Jaycees Park. He is proposing a workshop-style format and to potentially have drawings ready for the March 22 meeting. Board members agreed to meet on March 8 with future meetings to be held between the regular monthly meetings. Mr. Sandy added there will be one agenda item at the March 8 meeting, to approve the plans and specs for the Mississippi Landing Trailhead Park.

Update on Brainerd/Baxter Baseball Association - Discussion

Mr. Rushmeyer reported that he and Steve Hanson met with City staff to discuss the 2022 youth baseball tournaments. They are allowing more teams which means they will be utilizing the Brainerd baseball fields more this year. They have asked that Katie do the concessions again this year. Mr. Sandy said there will be hold harmless agreements in place to allow BBBA members to help City staff with field maintenance at the tournaments. The BBBA has voted to eliminate the requirement that travel baseball players must play rec ball, primarily due to requests from families that have scheduling conflicts with other sports camps held throughout the baseball season. Travel baseball players that opt out of rec ball will still need to pay the participation fee to Community Ed. BBBA made it mandatory that travel players that play rec ball cannot miss practices or games to go to travel ball events, and travel ball schedules will not conflict with rec ball schedules. Direction was given to coaches to schedule practices and double headers on the Brainerd fields so our fields are being used.

Campground Host Discussion - Approved

Mr. Sandy reported that our campground host is not returning this summer. The Lum Park master plan includes a trailhead-type facility that could be utilized as a campground check-in, but we need to have something in place for this year and would like to advertise for a host. Staff has concerns about being able to manage the park from City Hall without a host on-site. We are looking at different software for online reservations and we need to think about other ways of collecting payments, posting sites, giving out shower keys, after hours maintenance issues, etc., without having a fulltime host.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS YEAGER AND SHIPE, DULY CARRIED, TO ADVERTISE FOR A CAMPGROUND HOST, ACCEPT WITH REGRET THE RESIGNATION OF OUR CURRENT HOST, AND HAVE STAFF CLEAN OUT THE CURRENT HOST SITE COMPLETELY.

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City Administrator Report

There was no report.

City Engineer and Recreation Coordinator Report

Ms. Kaufman had no additions to her written report.

In addition to his written report, Mr. Sandy reported the City Council discussed \$1.5M in federal ARP funds it received because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those funds can be used very broadly and the City Council is interested in putting some toward park projects that are in the 30-year Capital Plan.

Public Forum

The Chair opened and closed the Public Forum at 5:45 p.m.

Mr. Shipe inquired about the Buster Dog Park gazebo. Mr. Sandy reported that materials are still very expensive and a pre-fab unit would cost about \$25,000. The item will need to be re-budgeted for \$15,000-\$20,000 if we build it, or \$25,000 if it is purchased. Capital budget talks will begin at the Council level in March, so Park Board discussion will be upcoming.

Adjourn

MOVED AND SECONDED AT 5:50 P.M. BY BOEDER AND SHIPE, DULY CARRIED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist

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