

BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Regular Park Board Meeting
September 22, 2015 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 Jackie Burkey, Tim Boeder, Holly Holm, Dale Parks, City Council Liaison Gabe Johnson and Park Director Tony Sailer. Also noted present was City Administrator Jim Thoreen.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY BOEDER AND PARKS

A. Approval of the amended minutes of the regular meeting held August 22, 2015

MOVED AND SECONDED BY PARKS AND BOEDER

A. Approval of the disbursements for the month of September 2015

OLD BUSINESS

A. Car Show Request – Merle Gallant

The Chair recognized Mr. Merle Gallant, who was in attendance to address questions and concerns the Board had regarding Northern Tin Street Rod Association's request to use Gregory Park for a Minnesota Street Rod Association Car Show on September 10, 2016. Following discussion, the Board asked Mr. Gallant to provide a schematic of the park that would give them a better idea of the logistics of parking 400-450 show cars in Gregory Park. Item tabled to the October 27 meeting.

B. Adult Softball Umpires

Mr. Sailer distributed an opinion from the League of Minnesota Cities regarding the question of adult softball umpires being payroll employees versus independent contractors. The LMC feels there would be risk involved in re-classifying umpires as independent contractors because the Department of Labor and the IRS are very focused on the issue of misclassification of independent contractors. It was noted that whether umpires are on the payroll or issued 1099's, they are still liable for individual income taxes. The Board recommended no change to employment status for umpires.

C. Gregory Park Tennis Courts Grant

The grant from the USTA has been finalized, and the check will be forthcoming.

D. Buffalo Hills-Lions Park Selective Harvest

Mr. Sailer met with a DNR forester who will be putting together a plan for the selective harvest at Buffalo Hills-Lions Park. ISD 181 owns twenty acres to the north of the park and has indicated it wants to be included in the timber harvest. Once the plan is received from the DNR, Mr. Sailer will meet with school district officials as well as the neighbors who live next to the park.

E. Miracle League Field Sponsor Plaques

Mr. Parks expressed concern that the sponsor plaques are still not installed at the Miracle League Field. He would like the Board to move forward with this even if it has to pay to have the masonry work done. Mr. Sailer will contact the person who was donating his time to see if he will be able to complete the project this fall. Mr. Parks made a motion to have Mr. Sailer contact the mason about completing the installation of the Miracle League Field sponsor plaques this fall, or to seek bids to have the work completed before the next Park Board meeting. Ms. Holm seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Request for Use – Cyclocross Race

Russell Frey from Acceleration Sports and Fitness is requesting the use of the grassy area surrounding the parking lot at Trailside Park for a Bicycle Cyclocross event on October 25, 2015. He mowed 8' around the parking lot and will provide insurance for the event through the American Bicycle Racing organization. Ms. Holm made a motion to approve the use of Trailside Park for a Bicycle Cyclocross event on October 25, 2015. Mr. Parks seconded and board approval was unanimous.

B. Request for Use – BHS Homecoming Run

Kara Schaefer from Karma Race Management is requesting the use of Kiwanis Park as the staging area for the 5k/10k run scheduled for October 3 as part of the Brainerd Homecoming Activities, and to have the rental fee waived. Proceeds from the event go toward Warrior athletics, arts and academics. Mr. Parks made a motion to approve the use of Kiwanis Park for a 5k/10k run on October 3, 2015 and to waive the rental fee. Mr. Boeder seconded and board approval was unanimous.

C. Request for Use – Cub Scouts

Cub Scout leader Karl Jackman is requesting the use of the stone fire ring at Lum Park on September 25 for a Cub Scout event to greet new scouts and parents. Mr. Sailer reported that staff has trimmed out rebar at the fire ring that may have presented a liability issue, and the Police Department will be notified that the group will be having a bonfire in the fire ring. Mr. Boeder made a motion to approve the use of the stone fire ring at Lum Park for a Cub Scout event on September 25, 2015. Mr. Parks seconded and board approval was unanimous.

D. Request for Use – Walk for Marc

Carol Peterson, sister of Marc Welzant, is requesting the use of Kiwanis Park on October 25, 2015, to hold a walk to acknowledge the one-year anniversary of her brother's disappearance. Ms. Peterson was advised the restrooms will be closed for the season, and she is seeking permission to have a portable toilet brought in for the event. Ms. Holm made a motion to approve the Walk for Marc at Kiwanis Park on October 25, 2015, and to allow Carol Peterson to have a portable toilet brought in. Mr. Parks seconded and board approval was unanimous.

E. Brainerd Brewery Dig

St. Cloud University student Corey Yates is requesting permission to conduct an archaeological investigation at the former site of the Brainerd Brewery at Kiwanis Park as research for his thesis. Mr. Yates has contacted local historian Carl Faust, who has done a significant amount of research and work at the brewery site and is excited at the prospect of an archaeology dig there. Mr. Yates will share any findings from his project with the local community and historical society. Mr. Boeder made a motion to approve Corey Yates' request to conduct an archaeological investigation at the former site of the Brainerd Brewery at Kiwanis Park. Mr. Parks seconded and board approval was unanimous.

PUBLIC FORUM

City Administrator Jim Thoreen went on a tour of the City's park facilities with the Parks Director. He commented on what a marvelous park system Brainerd has, but he can also see room for improvements. He told board members that he will work to do what he can to get money for improvements.

Mr. Parks suggested that a field location guide be added somewhere on the department's website to help people locate fields throughout the park system. League schedules refer to field numbers but don't tell the public where the fields are located.

Ms. Burkey would like to see information about memorials that are located throughout the park system posted on the website.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Fifteen players participated in the Disc Golf tournament on Aug. 29.
- Eight teams participated in the Scrubs softball tournament on Sept. 12.

- The hockey boards at Mill Ave. and Bane parks had many support posts and boards replaced, and all three rinks will be painted.
- The Downhill Derby, scheduled Sept. 19, was cancelled as only one participant enrolled. Staff will look into possibly eliminating the event and selling the derby cars, or look into another organization interested in running the event.
- The Great Pumpkin Festival will take place from 1-4 p.m. on Oct. 17.
- The Parks director will attend the MRPA state convention Oct. 6-9 in Mankato.
- A letter of praise for youth softball coach Troy Herron was received from another coach, who also sent the letter to the Brainerd Dispatch. Staff appreciates Mr. Herron's dedication to coaching not just his team, but opening up practices to any players in the league that wish to participate and learn more about the game.
- The 1981 yellow bucket truck that was deemed dangerous has been sold to a salvage yard for parts.
- Emily Noble, who is spearheading fundraising for a splash pad facility, is trying to find a fiscal agent so she doesn't have to go through the long process of acquiring 501(c)3 (non-profit) status from the IRS.
- Flair Fountains, the company that installed the Gregory Park fountain in 1967, recently inspected the fountain and estimated it will cost approximately \$90,000-\$100,000 to replace the fountain. The issues are underneath the fountain, so it basically has to be demolished and re-built. Mr. Sailer plans to ask City Planner Mark Ostgarden about possible grants, and community support will likely be needed.
- There is an applicant for the vacant seat on the Park Board.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

See Item "E" under Old Business

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Holm made a motion at adjourn at 5:01 p.m. Mr. Boeder seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist