

BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Regular Park Board Meeting

August 25, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

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. Greg Roberts was noted absent.

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

A. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held July 28, 2015

B. Approval of the disbursements for the month of August 2015

OLD BUSINESS

A. 2016 Pay Rates

Mr. Sailer presented the Board with updated proposed 2016 pay rates for temporary seasonal workers, and explained the affect it would have on the program budgets. The question of adult softball umpires being payroll or contracted employees was brought up again. Mr. Sailer will contact the ASA regarding contracting and insurance. Mr. Boeder made a motion to pass the proposed 2015 pay rates, with further research to be done on umpires being contract employees versus payroll employees. Mr. Parks seconded and board approval was unanimous.

B. Campground Revenue

At the July meeting, the Park Board voted to request that net campground revenue be transferred to the Park Dedication fund. If approved by the City Council, net campground revenue would be placed in the Park Dedication fund beginning in 2016, as a transfer was not approved for the 2015 budget cycle. The possibility of the net campground revenue being placed in a capital budget fund rather than the Park Dedication fund was discussed at a recent budget meeting. This would make the funds available for any capital purchase approved by the Park Board.

C. Water and Sewer Extension

Mr. Sailer met with the City Engineer and a representative from WSN to discuss the water and sewer extension to the airport. It is preferable to go through Lum Park as discussed at the July Park Board meeting. The project will cost less using the route through the park. A minimal number of trees will need to be cut down, several of which are already dead and scheduled for removal. The project will take place next spring, and for safety and liability reasons the Disc Golf Course will need to be closed for one week until the 30-foot wide trench is filled. Mr. Parks made a motion to approve the Brainerd Public Utilities water and sewer extension project through Lum Park in the spring of 2016. Ms. Holm approved and board approval was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Gregory Park Warming House Roof

The City Council has approved \$10,000 to replace the roof and fascia of the Gregory Park warming house that was damaged in the July 12 storm. Capital improvement funds leftover from the \$50,000 designated for the Lum Park office and maintenance facility will be used.

B. Scholarship Transfer

Staff requests approval of the annual transfer of scholarship funds from youth program late fees to program revenue accounts. Ms. Holm made a motion to transfer funds from youth program late fees to program revenue accounts for scholarship registrations. Mr. Boeder seconded and board approval was unanimous.

C. Haapajoki Tournament Request

Eryk Haapajoki is requesting use of the adult softball fields on July 9-10, 2016 for next year's Brainerd Men's Invitational Softball Tournament. Financials for the 2015 tournament were distributed. Mr. Boeder made a motion to approve the request for the 2016 Brainerd Men's Invitational Softball Tournament on July 9-10, 2016 at Memorial and Mill Avenue parks. Ms. Holm seconded and board approval was unanimous.

D. Car Show Request

The Northern Tin Street Rod Association is requesting to host a car show from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, September 10, 2016, at Gregory Park, as part of the Minnesota Street Rod Association's Fall Campout being held at Crow Wing County Fairgrounds. The club also requested that food trucks be allowed on-site during the event. Board members had a few questions and concerns regarding the scope of the event. Mr. Sailer will ask Mr. Merle Gallant from the club to attend the September Park Board meeting to address any questions the Board may have. Item tabled.

E. Mills Field Use Request

Representatives from Section 5A of the Minnesota State High School League are requesting the use of Mills Field for the 2016 section tournament games on June 6, 7 and 9 for a total of four games. The rental fee is \$50 per game, or \$100 if the field lights are used. Staff will provide field maintenance. Mr. Boeder made a motion to approve the MSHSL Section 5A request to use Mills Field on June 6, 7 and 9, 2016 for section tournament games. Mr. Parks seconded and board approval was unanimous.

F. Gregory Park Splash Pad

Emily Noble, Alderwoman Mary Koep and several Northside residents were in attendance to discuss a proposed splash pad facility. Mr. Sailer opened what he called a very preliminary discussion by reminding everyone present that the Park Board, per the City Charter, is the decision-making body where the parks are concerned. He said that if the group is able to raise the desired \$300,000 to build the splash pad, there will be ongoing maintenance, it has to use chlorinated water, and much more information is needed.

The chair recognized Ms. Emily Noble, who is spearheading the fundraising for the splash pad facility. Ms. Noble apologized to the Board and those in attendance for prematurely posting information on social media about the splash pad facility. She stated she was merely trying to generate and gauge interest within the community. She reported that approximately 2,500 square feet would be needed for the splash pad, and she stressed that this would not be built as a tourist attraction, but as a facility for city residents to enjoy. Mr. Sailer said there would be room for it on the east side of Gregory Park. Ms. Noble acknowledged a \$1,000 donation from the Bob Olson family that would like to see it used at Gregory Park. She has also visited with Nancy Cross from Community Action.

The chair recognized Alderwoman Koep. Ms. Koep said the Bob Olson family donated \$1,000 for a memorial to Bob in Gregory Park. She stated there would be no up-front cost to the city for a splash pad, but concerns about ongoing expenses would need to be addressed. There would need to be meetings with the Northside residents to address their concerns.

The chair recognized Diane Guidi, 402 Bluff Avenue, Brainerd, a resident who lives near Gregory Park. Ms. Guidi spoke to a number of neighbors that have concerns about safety, accidents and possible lawsuits, the facility attracting dogs and wildlife, parking and noise. She stated these are factors in a quiet, older residential neighborhood.

Mr. Parks stated that the Park Board would have the same concerns as the residents, and would also have to address issues such as security. Policies and procedures would have to be established. He said other cities charge a fee that could be used to offset maintenance costs, and there would be staffing needs as well.

Ms. Noble shared some information about splash pad facilities and discussion followed.

Ms. Holm and Mr. Johnson both suggested the Riverfront Task Force Committee project as an alternate possibility for a splash pad location. Board members had positive comments about a splash pad, but not necessarily about the Gregory Park location. Much more information is needed. Ms. Koep responded that the Olson family has every right to have a determination of a location, and said their donation will go away if it's not located at Gregory Park.

Ms. Burkey is a Northside resident, and this week was the first she'd heard about the splash pad. She was surprised that it was on a City Council agenda when it should have gone to the Park Board. She echoed Ms. Guidi's concerns, but said it's a good idea if it is in the right location.

The Board encouraged Ms. Noble to move forward with raising funds for the project. The Board will keep it on the agenda for discussion in upcoming months as more information becomes available. Ms. Noble thanked the Board for its time.

G. Gregory Park Fountain

Mr. Sailer reported that the fountain leak appears to be directly underneath the fountain itself, likely caused from old, corroded pipes. The bowl of the fountain is cracked as well. Flair Fountains installed the fountain in 1967 and has the original plans. A company representative will come up to take a look at it. The bowl may have to be removed in order to find the source of the leak. Mr. Sailer has no idea how much it will cost to repair the fountain, and hopes that the City Council will have some money for it. The Gregory Park fountain is a historic centerpiece for Brainerd and highly visible from the downtown junction of Washington and Sixth streets. Mr. Sailer will provide further updates when available.

PUBLIC FORUM

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The ASA Class D state men's softball tournament Aug. 14-16 at Memorial and Mill Avenue parks drew 42 teams.
- The summer adult softball leagues were scheduled to be completed by Aug. 20, but rain forced the playoffs to be continued into the following week.
- The fall co-ed and men's softball leagues and adult kickball were scheduled to begin the week of Aug. 24.
- The Big Wiff tournament was cancelled as only two teams registered.
- The Disc Golf tournament is Aug. 29 at Lum Park. All of the tee pads have been installed.
- The Scrubs co-ed softball tournament is scheduled Sept. 12-13 at Memorial Park.
- The Downhill Derby is schedule Sept. 19 at Lum Park.
- There was a great turnout for the water ski shows at Lum Park, and the group did a great job with set-up and clean-up.
- Budget talks with the City Council are ongoing. All departments are asking for capital items.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

A. Greg Roberts Resignation

At the request of the Park Board, Ms. Burkey spoke with Mr. Roberts about meeting attendance. She did not hear back from him, but Mr. Boeder received a text from Mr. Roberts announcing his resignation due to scheduling conflicts with work. Mr. Sailer thanked Mr. Roberts for his years of service. An opening on the Park Board will be announced.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Boeder made a motion at adjourn at 5:18 p.m. Mr. Parks seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist