

**BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**Special Park Board Meeting**  
**July 7, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.**  
**Parks and Recreation Office**

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 Jackie Burkey, Tim Boeder, Holly Holm, Dale Parks, Greg Roberts, City Council Liaison Gabe Johnson and Park Director Tony Sailer. Also noted present was Matt Eberts, DVM, Lakeland Veterinary Hospital.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Buster Park**

As discussed at the June 23 board meeting, a dog infected with parvovirus collapsed at Buster Park. The dog was treated and recovered; initial information that said the dog died was incorrect. The dog park was immediately posted to alert facility users that dogs vaccinated for the parvovirus should be safe to use the park; otherwise dog owners are bringing in dogs at their own risk. There is no danger to humans.

The chair recognized Matt Eberts, DVM at Lakeland Veterinary Hospital. Dr. Eberts presented information about parvovirus. It is strictly a dog disease that attacks rapidly growing cells, so it almost always affects puppies. Parvovirus has been around for decades and is present virtually everywhere in the environment. Only solid, nonporous surfaces can be successfully decontaminated by using disinfectants. A properly vaccinated dog is protected from the virus. Puppies should receive the first vaccination between 6-8 weeks old and have two to three booster shots that will provide complete immunity by 14-16 weeks of age.

Dr. Eberts stated that Buster Park is a vital part of the City's park system, and it should not be closed because of this incident. He feels that the City has already demonstrated due diligence with the permanent signage at the park that states that dogs must be properly vaccinated to enter the facility. Ms. Holm noted that puppies are supposed to be at least four months old to use the park, and all puppies should be properly vaccinated by that age. Mr. Sailer added that prior to Buster Park there were dogs in the hockey rinks and baseball fields, and the dog park is a safe haven if people follow the rules.

Ms. Holm made a motion to keep Buster Park open and remove the temporary warning sign. Mr. Parks seconded and board approval was unanimous.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr. Al Martin, Merrifield, suggested a weather-proof box with informational brochures be put up at the dog park.

Mr. Dan Hegstad, Brainerd, suggested moving the sign with the rules to inside the park where he feels that people are more likely to read it.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made at 4:20 p.m. by Ms. Holm. Mr. Roberts seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist