

BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Regular Park Board Meeting
May 24, 2016 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 Dale Parks, Dan Hegstad, Jackie Burkey, Holly Holm, Tim Boeder, City Council Liaison Gabe Johnson and Park Director Tony Sailer. Also noted present was City Administrator Jim Thoreen and Emily Noble.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- A. Park Dedication Funds**
- B. College Drive Maintenance**

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

- A. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held April 26, 2016**
- B. Approval of the disbursements for the month of May 2016**

OLD BUSINESS

A. Splash Pad Update

City Administrator Jim Thoreen drafted a Memorandum of Understanding to address a group's wish to raise money to construct a splash pad at a city park. The chair recognized Ms. Emily Noble, who is spearheading the project. Ms. Noble explained that she needs to establish support for the splash pad from the Park Board and City Council in order to proceed with asking the Initiative Foundation to serve as the fiscal agent. A location is the next objective, with Gregory Park being the preferred site. Discussion followed with the Board adding Lum Park and the Riverfront property as possible locations. Board members are generally in favor of the splash pad, and tabled discussion of a site. Mr. Sailer and Ms. Noble will meet to discuss options before the June 6 Council meeting. After considerable discussion, Mr. Hegstad made a motion to accept the Memorandum of Understanding as presented, which includes naming the Initiative Foundation as the fiscal agent. Mr. Boeder seconded and board approval was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Park Policing

Mr. Sailer reported that vandalism in the parks has escalated recently, especially at Gregory Park. Deputy Chief of Police Mike Bestul has asked that a letter be sent from the Parks Director as a follow up with offenders that have been cited for inappropriate activity in the parks and banned from the parks for a period of time. Subsequent violations could result in trespassing charges against the individual. Mr. Parks asked if this process was legal. Following discussion, Mr. Hegstad made a motion to support Mr. Sailer's recommendation to write a follow up letter to individuals identified by the Police Department, pending discussion with the City Prosecutor. Ms. Burkey seconded and board approval was unanimous.

B. Donations

The VFW Post 1647 recently donated \$1,500 to replace the downtown flags that are displayed along the main downtown traffic corridors. The Brainerd Jaycees donated \$500 toward future improvements to Jaycees Park. The department was not awarded the \$50,000 U.S. Bank/Minnesota Vikings grant. Mr. Sailer was encouraged to apply again next year. Grant funds would be used toward lights for Field 3 at Memorial Park.

C. College Drive

Mr. Sailer and Maintenance Foreman Troy Harris met with the City Administrator and City Engineer to discuss maintenance of the College Drive roundabouts. Park staff currently mows and weed whips the College Drive boulevards and median once a

week, but does not have the time or manpower to weed the roundabouts. Suggestions that came out of the staff meeting included replacing median grass with concrete or artificial grass, hiring seasonal workers to specifically tend the roundabouts, or asking service clubs to adopt a roundabout. It was also noted the irrigation system is no longer working. Mr. Sailer expressed his concern for safety of city employees and/or volunteers, noting that the median fence, trees and sprinkler heads have been hit by vehicles numerous times since College Drive opened. Board members expressed frustration over not having input when the project was put in but now is expected to pay to repair and maintain it. Ms. Burkey suggested weeding then applying a good thick layer of wood chips to keep the weeds down. Mr. Parks suggested contracting it out. The Board liked that idea and directed Mr. Sailer to get some cost estimates for the 2017 budget. In the meantime, Park Maintenance staff will continue to mow and weed whip the boulevard and median on a weekly basis.

D. Park Dedication

A couple of developers have expressed interest in purchasing tax-forfeited lots at various developments within the city limits. One developer is asking to have the \$500 per lot park dedication fee waived, and is not offering park land in lieu of fees. Board members were in agreement that there is not money in the budget to maintain any more park land at this time, and would prefer to get the fees. The Board discussed the implication of offering some flexibility with the fees in order to promote new development within the city. After further discussion, board members would like to make a recommendation to City Council that the Park Board would prefer to get the \$500 in Park Dedication fees, but is willing to entertain a compromise rather than impede the sale of the tax-forfeited lots.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Thoreen reported that a Citizen's Facilities Committee consisting of two Council members and eight citizens recently toured City Hall and the annex next door. The committee will be assessing city facilities, including the parks, and making recommendations for improvements to City Council.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Vicki Vinokur will begin her summer internship on May 23. She is completing her Master's Degree in Recreation Management.
- The Buffalo Hills-Lions concession stand has passed all state inspections to serve food.
- The Bicycle Clinic had about 50 attendees on May 14. Temperatures in the low 30s with a strong NW wind were a factor in the low attendance.
- The Kids Fishing Clinic will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lum Park beach on May 28.
- The 10 & Under and 12 & Under state baseball qualifiers will be played June 10-12 at Bane and Jaycees parks, and the 11U/13U state qualifiers are June 17-19. A total of 44 teams will complete.
- The regular seasons for competitive baseball and softball begin May 31.
- The non-competitive programs begin June 6 and June 7.
- Girl Scout Troop 393 will tend to the planter on Washington and South 6th streets. Amy Price and her family will take over her father's (James Wallin) role of the flowers at the Kiwanis Park planter.
- The Memorial Park restrooms grand opening was May 17. One softball player told a staff member that the restrooms "are the bomb!"

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, June 28, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Boeder made a motion at adjourn at 5:36 p.m. Ms. Holm seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist