

BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Regular Park Board Meeting
September 25, 2018 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 Tim Boeder, Jackie Burkey, Dale Parks, Troy Rushmeyer, Kara Schaefer, City Council Liaison Dave Badeaux and Park Director Tony Sailer. Also noted present was Brainerd Community Action Executive Director Holly Holm.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

See item B under Old Business

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

- A. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held August 28, 2018**
- B. Approval of the disbursements for the month of September 2018**

OLD BUSINESS

A. Park Facilities Report

Staff cut sod, extended the infield to accommodate the new base distance, removed the hump between the infield and outfield, and brought in black dirt to level the outfield of Field 1 at Memorial Park. Funds from the adult softball banner program were used for the repairs. Brainerd Public Utilities repaired a number of electrical issues throughout the park system that were addressed in the facility study.

B. Baseball Association Update

Brainerd Lakes Area Baseball Association board member Troy Rushmeyer provided an update on the newly formed non-profit group. The association received its 501(c)3 designation and Minnesota Department of Revenue tax exempt status. BLABA will participate in the Homecoming Parade to hand out informational flyers, and is looking for people to walk in the parade. A "Lead-Off Party" to promote BLABA in the community is scheduled for December 8. The association will be seeking sponsors and donations on an ongoing basis.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Bane Park Flag Pole

Staff is requesting the transfer of \$303.75 from the Park Fund to the Park Dedication Fund to cover the cost of concrete used for the installation of the Bane Park flag pole. Mr. Parks made a motion to approve the transfer, Ms. Burkey seconded and board approval was unanimous.

B. Arts in the Park Vendor Parking

The Chair recognized Holly Holm from Brainerd Community Action. Ms. Holm is seeking to "class up" the Arts in the Park event held each year at Gregory Park, and will be directing participating vendors to park vehicles away from the

event area after booths are set up. The goal is to achieve an aesthetically pleasing look for the event. Vendors with trailers will be allowed to have their trailers next to their booths, but vehicles should be parked on the street. She is requesting a letter of support from the Park Board that would reinforce her parking directive to vendors at the event. Following discussion, Mr. Parks made a motion to support Ms. Holm's request to limit vehicle parking at the Arts in the Park event. Ms. Schaefer seconded and board approval was unanimous. Staff will draft a letter, to be signed by Board President Tim Boeder.

C. Northtown Playground

Staff has been working with the Northtown developer and the City Attorney regarding the donation of two parcels of land to be designated for a playground area. The donation is contingent upon the playground being installed in 2019. The City Council must approve the land donation with a two-thirds majority vote. Staff has requested \$15,000 in 2019 Capital Improvement funds and would use \$15,000 from the Park Dedication fund toward the purchase and installation of playground equipment next year. In 2017 the Park Board indicated it was amenable to the possibility of a small playground area at Northtown and directed staff to seek designs from vendors in the \$20,000-\$30,000 range. The developer indicated at that time he would like it geared toward younger children and would donate \$400 per lot sold toward the playground equipment.

D. Buster Park Improvements

Staff acquired and painted two cement culverts, constructed a teeter-totter, repainted the decorative fire hydrants and added fresh wood chips at the dog park. Positive comments have been received regarding the improvements and increased play options for dogs at Buster Park.

PUBLIC FORUM

The chair recognized Wayne and Stacey Harting of Brainerd. The Hartings live two doors north of Lum Park and are upset about the Brainerd Ski Loons' use of Rice Lake in front of their dock. They understand the Sheriff's Department grants the permit for the use of the lake, but the Park Board allows the use of Lum Park for access and staging. Mr. Harting explained to board members that the ski club uses three boats four to five evenings a week, May through Labor Day, from 5:00 p.m. to dark, passing 15-20 feet from the end of their dock. They counted 200 passes per week by the boats and skiers, and the ski jump also obstructs their view of the lake. The Hartings have no desire to shut down the ski club, but the use of the lake in front of their dock is so excessive that they can't enjoy their back yard and the lake. Mr. Harting said ski boats have passed as close as 10 feet from the dock, even directly over his fishing line while fishing from the dock. Park Board members were under the impression the club was practicing two times per week in addition to the four shows it puts on each summer. Staff indicated that the club practices two nights per week, and provides instruction the other evenings, so perhaps they could find another location for instructional sessions. Mr. Harting said the club only uses the ski jump for a day or two before shows, so maybe they could remove it the rest of the time or move it in front of the Lum Park Beach. Moving the Ski Loons' dock closer to the Lum Park Beach might help the situation also. The Hartings also mentioned that they see children climbing on the ski jump often. They feel that the Ski Loons have options available to them that would lessen the disruption to the three homeowners primarily affected by the nightly activity, mainly by moving or removing the ski ramp and changing the direction of their routes. Mr. Sailer will visit with club president Chris Dens about addressing these concerns prior to the 2019 season.

City Council Liaison Dave Badeaux informed the Board that the future of the Mill Avenue Park lease is uncertain, and the Board may need to be thinking about other options for the well-used hockey and skating rinks that are located there.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The 12th annual Great Pumpkin Festival will take place from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 13, at Gregory Park.
- Staff worked with the Street Department to remove about 20 dead trees in Gregory, Bane and Jaycees parks. A few more trees are scheduled for removal in Bane Park.
- The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America will be hosting its National Specialty at Cragun's Resort and Conference Center in early May 2019. There will be many BMDs in attendance and the group has indicated

its interest in using Buster Park during their stay. Because there is no fee to use Buster Park, the group indicated it may make a donation for improvements at the facility.

- The Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association state conference will take place in Rochester from Oct. 9-12. The Park Director and Recreation Specialist will attend.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at the Conference Room at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:05 p.m. was made by Ms. Burkey and seconded by Ms. Schaefer. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist