

**BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Regular Park Board Meeting
November 27, 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, City Council Liaison Dave Badeaux and Park Director Tony Sailer. Kara Schaefer was absent.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

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

- A. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held October 23, 2018**
- B. Approval of the disbursements for the month of November 2018**

OLD BUSINESS

A. WWII Memorial

Funds for the WWII memorial monument have been secured by Mr. Maury Mogensen. The \$2,500 downpayment needed for the granite company has already been received by the department. The memorial will include the engraved granite monument, flagpole and flag, and will be installed at Memorial Park in the spring. Any leftover funds may be used to hook up power for the floodlight. A back-up location at Memorial Park may be necessary depending on the outcome of the property lease situation with Brainerd Industrial Center.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Facility Priorities

Director Sailer sought the Park Board's input to prioritize a list of future improvements to the park system, noting that some of the items are included with 2019 capital improvement requests already being considered by the City Council. He developed a 30-year facilities and equipment plan, and presented ten years of potential capital improvement requests. Discussion followed with an emphasis on what will happen if the lease for the Mill Avenue Park and Memorial Park parking lot properties isn't renewed in January. Memorial Park would need to be completely reconfigured to accommodate four adult softball fields and the hockey and skating rinks.

B. Youth Baseball

Staff met with City Council liaison Dave Badeaux to discuss ways to improve the youth baseball program. Mr. Badeaux shared a few things he would like to see implemented to set our program apart from others, with an emphasis on getting kids excited about playing baseball in the Brainerd leagues by making them feel like valued participants. He proposed having announcers for all games, recalling how important it made the kids feel to have their names announced when he was playing youth baseball. Other ideas include playing the national anthem before games, going to a Brainerd Warriors-style cap with the "B" on the front and providing better quality uniforms by having two sponsors per team, which would also help to defray the additional associated costs. Mr. Rushmeyer shared that parents with children playing in the newly formed baseball association could possibly be a source of announcers for league games.

C. New Program Ideas

Staff is looking to implement some “outside the box” programs in 2019. A request of \$5,000 for program development is included in the 2019 budget that the City Council must approve by December 28. Matching funds may be available from Crow Wing Energized. Programs being considered by staff include a Saturday morning yoga class at Gregory Park, bringing weekly activities to Operation Sandwich locations, a Mommy and Me garden party (decorating flower pots and planting flowers together), planting a bulb garden and offering the bulbs to city residents at the end of the summer, Benchwarmer Basketball for persons not as skilled as others but still enjoy the game, and various fundraising events at Buster Dog Park.

D. Program Elimination/Reduction

Staff is proposing to eliminate the following programs due to lack of participants: Grass Volleyball (nine participants), Colt Baseball (16 players) and the morning Shetland T-Ball program (nine players). Colt Baseball players are eligible to play in youth baseball or softball leagues and there will still be an evening Shetland T-Ball program. Mr. Rushmeyer made a motion to eliminate the programs as proposed by staff, Mr. Parks seconded and board approval was unanimous.

E. Seasonal Pay Rates and Facility Fee Schedule

Staff presented the 2018 seasonal pay rates and facility fees for board approval. The only change was to increase baseball tournament umpire fees, which was previously approved by the Board. Mr. Parks made a motion to approve 2019 rates and fees as presented, Ms. Burkey seconded and board approval was unanimous.

F. 2019 Meeting Dates

The 2019 Brainerd Park Board meeting schedule was accepted as presented.

G. Kiwanis Club Projects

The Brainerd Kiwanis Club has several potential project ideas for Kiwanis Park in 2019, including a bench at the end of the Boom Lake fishing pier, adding a section to make the pier ADA compliant, and installing a sidewalk from the trail to the pier for handicapped accessibility.

H. Rotary Club Honored

The Brainerd Rotary Club received the “Outstanding Conservationist” award from the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District, which puts them in the running for the state award to be presented at the state convention on December 11. The award was for the club’s efforts to establish the Rotary Riverside Park “Field of Seeds” prairie restoration project and the seed bank project.

PUBLIC FORUM

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- Staff cut down three dead trees in Lum Park and cleared limbs, branches and trunks from this summer’s cut behind the townhouses abutting Buffalo Hills-Lions Park. Salvaged wood was split and will be sold as campground firewood.

- The Brainerd Lakes Area Women of Today donated \$200 from its concession stand sales at the Great Pumpkin Festival. Staff received \$201 from its agreement with Buffalo Wild Wings as part of a sales promotion. Both donations will be used to purchase baseball helmets and youth softball face guards.
- Staff assisted Brainerd Public Utilities in decorating the Christmas tree on South 6th and Laurel streets and hung downtown swags and wreaths.
- The adult Pond Hockey registration deadline is Dec. 7 and the youth Pond Hockey deadline is Dec. 14. The tentative opening date of the warming houses is Dec. 17.
- The state VFW tournament will take place Aug. 8-11 at Mills and BHS fields.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at the Conference Room at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:00 p.m. was made by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Rushmeyer. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist