

BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Regular Park Board Meeting
November 26, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.
Crow Wing County Courthouse-3rd floor-326 Laurel Street, Brainerd

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 Troy Rushmeyer, Kara Schaefer, Tim Boeder, Dale Parks, Kevin Yeager, City Council Liaison Dave Badeaux and Park Director Tony Sailer.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

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

- A. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held October 22, 2019**
- B. Approval of the disbursements for the month of November 2019**

OLD BUSINESS

A. Children's Museum

The chair recognized Mike Angland from Widseth Smith Nolting, who gave a slide and video presentation of the conceptual plan for the proposed Children's Museum at Lum Park. Peter Olson, Project Director for the Children's Museum, was also in attendance to answer questions. Mr. Olson said the Museum Board is close to choosing a location, either Lum Park in Brainerd or acreage in Baxter owned by Potlatch. Park Board approval of the conceptual plan is necessary before Mr. Olson submits a funding request to the Personnel and Finance Committee for the City Council's consideration. The cost of the master plan is estimated to be \$50,000, and it is anticipated the museum will seek 50% of that cost from the City.

The chair recognized Interim City Administrator Jim Thoreen, who cited the City Charter and the Park Board's authority regarding the city parks. It was noted that if the Park Board approves the conceptual plan, the City Council recommends funding for the master plan and Lum Park is ultimately selected as the site for the museum, that the Park Board and department staff will want to work closely with the Museum Board on development of the master plan. Mr. Parks made a motion to approve the conceptual plan for the Children's Museum at Lum Park, and to have the master plan funding request sent to the Personnel and Finance Committee. Mr. Boeder seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Youth Baseball

Staff met with Community Education Director Cori Reynolds to learn about the agreement between the City of Baxter and Community Education and discuss the possibility of Community Education taking over Brainerd's competitive baseball leagues and combine with Baxter's leagues. This would only pertain to the Mustang, Bronco and Pony League baseball teams, and Community Education would do everything from sponsorships to registrations to ordering uniforms. Fields from both Brainerd and Baxter would be used. The City of Baxter is not compensated for field preparation.

The chair recognized Derek Owen from the Brainerd Lakes Area Baseball Association, who reported on BLABA's recommendation to combine Brainerd and Baxter baseball leagues. With a decrease in participation numbers the past few years, it has become apparent that the two towns should combine in order to provide a meaningful in-house league experience as well as the opportunity to offer competitive traveling (tournament) baseball teams.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2020 Seasonal Pay Rates

Staff reported that the minimum wage will increase to \$10.00 per hour in 2020. Proposed 2020 pay rates for seasonal employees was presented for approval. Staff is proposing that a pay range be implemented for hourly employees, to allow for annual increases for returning employees. A modest per game increase for umpires in the youth competitive leagues is proposed. Board members would like to see 2019 program revenue vs. expenses to confirm that existing program revenues will cover the pay increases. Item tabled to the December meeting.

B. Tournament Request

Eryk Haapajoki provided a 2019 tournament financial report and is requesting the use of the adult softball fields for July 11-12, 2020, for the "This One's for Hop" softball tournament. Mr. Parks made a motion to approve the request, Mr. Yeager seconded and board approval was unanimous.

PUBLIC FORUM

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Thoreen thanked Park Board members for their dedication and hard work and shared a story from when he worked in the Fargo/Moorhead area as it relates to the possible Brainerd/Baxter baseball merger.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Staff plans to begin flooding the outdoor rinks on Dec. 2.
- The registration deadline for adult pond hockey is Dec. 13. League play begins Jan. 7 at Bane Park.
- The registration deadline for youth pond hockey is Dec. 20. Equipment handout will be from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Dec. 21 at the Mill Avenue Park warming house. Practices begin Jan. 2.
- The Santa Paws event will be from noon to 1 p.m. on Dec. 14 at Buster Park. Dogs can have their pictures taken with Santa.
- The Brainerd Lakes Area Women of Today donated \$400 from concession proceeds from the Great Pumpkin Festival. The funds are earmarked for a security camera in the pavilion of the new warming house structure at Gregory Park.
- Staff is working with Brainerd Public Utilities to hang Christmas decorations downtown, and to remove large dead trees.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. at the Crow Wing County Courthouse (3rd floor) at 326 Laurel Street, Brainerd.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:33 p.m. was made by Mr. Parks and seconded by Ms. Schaefer. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist