

BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Special Park Board Meeting
April 8, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.
Webex call-in meeting at 844-992-4726 Access Code – 962 228 931

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 Kara Schaefer, Kevin Yeager, Dale Parks, Tim Boeder, Troy Rushmeyer and Park Director Tony Sailer. Also noted present was Mayor Dave Badeaux.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Buster Dog Park (see Item "B" under New Business)

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Gregory Park Tennis Courts

Staff has received several calls from the public asking when the Gregory Park tennis nets would be put up. Mr. Sailer reached out on a national, state and local level for recommendations regarding public tennis courts. He reported that the U.S. Tennis Association has recommended that people do not play tennis during the COVID-19 pandemic, stating the virus could be transmitted by the common sharing of tennis balls, gate handles, net posts and potentially court surfaces where the ball is hitting. He also attended a MN Recreation and Park Association tele-conference, and of the nine towns that responded regarding tennis courts, two were not putting nets up, and of the seven that did, two were taking them down because people were congregating. ISD 181 is not putting any tennis nets up because they don't want people congregating. Mr. Sailer would like direction from the Board for the Gregory Park tennis courts. Mr. Boeder asked if staff had a recommendation. Mr. Sailer responded that if ISD 181 is not putting nets up and Gregory Park is the only community facility with nets up, this could result in serious congregating. He also understands that people want to get out and be active. Mr. Rushmeyer made a motion to not put the nets up and keep the gates locked. He said that COVID-19 cases are still climbing and there are still some unknowns about virus transmission. Mr. Boeder seconded. Mr. Sailer asked if the board wanted to put a potential end date to the closure or discuss later. Board members agreed to May 4 until further notice, which is the end date of the Governor's extended stay at home order. Upon roll call, members Schaefer, Boeder, Rushmeyer, Parks and Yeager voted "aye". No member voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion passed. Mr. Sailer commented that staff would update the department's Facebook page and website with the closure. Mr. Badeaux requested that it be noted that this is in accordance with the USTA's recommendation.

B. Buster Dog Park

Ms. Schaefer noted there are a lot of families, a lot of dogs, and a lot of congregating going on at the dog park. She wanted the Board to discuss. Mr. Sailer said this subject came up at the MRPA tele-conference, and every city that responded said they were leaving dog parks open, but posting signage at the gate stating, "please keep social distance". Mr. Rushmeyer said he also observed people not observing social distancing at the dog park. Board members discussed limiting only a certain number of people in the park at a time, but sometimes a family of five will be there with one dog and this could be difficult to enforce. Mr. Rushmeyer made a motion to have signs posted at the entrance to the dog park with CDC guidelines and to practice social distancing. Upon roll call, members Boeder, Rushmeyer, Parks, Yeager and Schaefer voted "aye". No member voted "nay" and the motion passed unanimously. This information will also be shared on Facebook and the website.

Mr. Rushmeyer asked if we could do the same for the ballfields, so signs will be posted at the dog park and the baseball and softball fields and shared on social media and the website.

PUBLIC FORUM

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. Webex call-in meeting information to be announced.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made at 4:26 p.m. by Mr. Boeder and seconded by Mr. Parks. Upon roll call, members Boeder, Rushmeyer, Parks, Yeager and Schaefer voted "aye". No member voted "nay". Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist