

BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Special Park Board Meeting
June 9, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.
WebEx Teleconference Meeting
Toll-free 844-992-4726 Access Code – 146 347 4156

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. by Board President Schaefer.

Upon roll call, the following members were noted as present: Boeder, Parks, Rushmeyer, Yeager and Schaefer. Director Sailer, City Administrator Bergman, Mayor Badeaux and Greg Fagering were also noted as present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Concerts in the Park was added under Old Business, Disc Golf was moved to the beginning of Old Business, This One's for Hop was cancelled from New Business and Brainerd Varsity Baseball use of Mills Field was added to New Business. Motion to approve the agenda made by Boeder and seconded by Rushmeyer. Upon roll call, members Boeder, Parks, Rushmeyer, Yeager and Schaefer voted "aye". No member voted "nay". The Chair declared the agenda approved.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Concerts in the Park

Mr. Sailer reported that The Center's director DeAnn Barry asked him to approve a press release she had prepared for the Brainerd Dispatch, stating that Concerts in the Park would begin in July at Gregory Park. The most recent Executive Order from the governor said that outdoor entertainment venues including concerts could open at 25% capacity. It also said outdoor social gatherings of more than 25 people not from the same household were prohibited, even if social distancing could be maintained. Following discussion, board members agreed to adhere to its June 2 motion to follow the governor's Executive Order and notify The Center when Concerts in the Park can resume.

B. Disc Golf

The Chair recognized Greg Fagering, who presented information about disc golf and the local Fly-by Disc Golf League that has raised money for improvements to the Lum Park Disc Golf Course over the years. He was contacted to look at Memorial Park for a potential disc golf course. He feels there is a good opportunity to utilize unused land behind the stadium and softball fields and the old BMX track area. Considerations when designing a disc golf course include safety for all park users, sustainability of the land and the investment, and respect to the park users, neighbors, and future development. He emailed Mr. Yeager a map with different possibilities for a course, which Mr. Yeager didn't share with board members because he thought it should be discussed first to see if it is something they would even be interested in for the Memorial Park redesign discussion. Mayor Badeaux stated that the discussion started because he and his family spend a lot of time at Memorial Park and noted the large area behind the stadium that isn't being used. Following a lengthy discussion including a question and answer session with Mr. Fagering, board members thanked him for presenting. Mr. Fagering thanked everyone and said he hopes the Board will keep disc golf in mind when planning Memorial Park.

C. Memorial Park Evaluation

Ms. Schaefer asked if it would make sense to have the evaluation discussion at the meeting scheduled for June 10 that is specifically for planning the redevelopment of Memorial Park. Mr. Sailer provided information about how much use Mills Field gets in response to evaluation comments about it not being used. School teams use it as soon as it is playable in the spring, the VFW youth team usually uses it throughout the summer, the VFW hosted its state tournament there the past two years, and it is used extensively for youth baseball tournaments that Brainerd hosts. The 15 & Under baseball tournament brings 28 teams to the area, which has a huge impact on the local economy. He said if we lose that field we will lose tournaments. Another thing the Board should consider is the thousands of dollars the Mills family has donated for upkeep and maintenance of Mills Field over the years, including \$25,000 for a new scoreboard a few years ago when the original scoreboard could no longer be repaired. The Park Board transfers any unused donation dollars into the Park Dedication fund at the end of each year, to be used for the maintenance and upkeep of the facility. Discussion followed,

ending with Mr. Sailer reminding everyone that the June 10 meeting will be held at the Brainerd Fire Department training room that will be set up to comply with social distancing guidelines.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Program Registration Refunds

Mr. Sailer asked the Board's approval to refund any youth registration fees at this time, based on the dates that were set forth previously for potential starting dates for programs. Even if the department does end up offering a summer recreation option, it will be a much shorter season and we would need to adjust fees accordingly. Mr. Yeager made a motion to refund any youth activity fees. Mr. Boeder seconded. Upon roll call, members Boeder, Parks, Rushmeyer, Yeager and Schaefer voted "aye". No member voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion passed.

B. This One's for Hop

Mr. Sailer reported that Eryk Haapajoki has cancelled this tournament for 2020. Mr. Boeder added that they are looking into having the Wounded Warriors back in 2021 at Mills Field.

C. Maintenance Projects

Mr. Sailer reported on the main projects staff has worked on between May 29 and June 4. He said there has been a rash of vandalism, with many picnic tables being damaged. He cited other incidents that must be addressed immediately, which consequently takes staff away from other duties. He received reports of people sleeping under the pavilion at Gregory Park, which was reported to the Brainerd Police Department. He thanked the Police Department for the great job they do and always responding promptly whenever he calls them with an issue in the parks.

D. Ageless Wonders

Mr. Sailer reported that Gary Bodie, Ageless Wonders coordinator, is asking if their group can begin playing at Memorial Park. He said all players will be provided a list of COVID-19 information and guidelines that states that players not wearing a mask will assume the risk of a virus. They will be playing by different rules called "Catcher's Hand" that will reduce the number of people that have contact with the ball. They will also be practicing six foot social distancing and providing sanitizer for bats and balls. With the guidelines set forth today for 25 or fewer people, staff is recommending that they be allowed to start playing June 16. Following discussion, Mr. Yeager made a motion to allow the Ageless Wonders to play because they have a plan that meets the guidelines to play safely. Mr. Parks seconded. Mr. Rushmeyer added to remind them to have 25 or fewer people. Upon roll call, members Parks, Rushmeyer, Yeager and Schaefer voted "aye". Mr. Boeder voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion passed.

E. Brainerd Varsity Baseball Use of Mills Field

Mr. Rushmeyer was contacted by VFW youth baseball coach Trent Grahams and the 14U travel coach Derek Owen asking to be able to use Mills Field starting June 15. The groups have preparedness plans for 25 kids to a pod and pods will be separated. There will not be any games. These groups have used Mills Field in the past and they clean the field up before they leave. Mr. Sailer said we would need preparedness plans from any of the groups, and games and scrimmages would not be allowed. Ms. Schaefer asked if parents would be present. Mr. Sailer said parents will be reminded they should not attend practices. Mr. Rushmeyer made a motion to allow the youth groups to use Mills Field. Mr. Parks seconded. Mr. Sailer asked that a preparedness plan requirement be added to the motion. Mr. Rushmeyer agreed. Upon roll call, members Boeder, Parks, Rushmeyer, Yeager and Schaefer voted "aye". No member voted "nay". The Chair declared the motion passed.

PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. at the Brainerd Fire Department training room.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn to the June 10 meeting was made at 5:30 p.m. by Mr. Rushmeyer and seconded by Mr. Boeder. Upon roll call, members Boeder, Rushmeyer, Parks, Yeager and Schaefer voted "aye". No member voted "nay". The Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist