

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regular meeting of the Brainerd Park Board was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Board President Yeager.

Upon roll call the following members were noted as present: Yeager, Boeder, Rushmeyer, Schaefer and Shipe. Park Board Liaison Badeaux, Recreation Coordinator Kaufman, City Administrator Bergman, Community Development Director Chanski, Chris Sonmor from WSB, and Mike Angland, David Reese, and Ashley Martel from Widseth were also noted as present. City Engineer Sandy was noted as absent.

Board President Yeager opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Approval of the Agenda - Approved

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS BOEDER AND SHIPE, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION OF ITEM 7B – GREGORY PARK CHRISTMAS TREE.

Approval of the Consent Calendar - Approved

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS SCHAEFER AND BOEDER, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meetings held on August 10, 2021, and September 7, 2021, and the Regular Meeting held on August 24, 2021**
- B. Approval of the Disbursements for October 2021**
- C. Approval of the September 2021 Financials**

Unfinished Business

Update on Memorial Park Construction - Discussion

Mr. Sonmor reported a few minor things to finish up and the pleasure rink area needs to be filled in for flooding purposes. He provided portable pickleball net system information to the Board. These are heavy, counter-weighted net systems that won't tip over as easily as cheaper versions and cost \$1,800 each plus shipping. Portable net systems avoid holes and penetrations in the hockey rink concrete. Mr. Rushmeyer thought they were going with an anchored system due to the potential for tripping when the wheels are down, and the possibility of theft. He asked if anchors would cause problems with the concrete, and if the Board could look at the cost difference and pros and cons of the portable versus the anchored systems. Mr. Yeager agreed that an anchored system lends itself to less risk and better overall appearance. More research will be done.

Mr. Yeager met with a vendor to get a price to have the Splash Pad sponsor pavers re-installed. The Splash Pad Fund will pay for this.

Discussion on Design Standards and Lum Park Master Plan, and SPRA Grant Application - Approved

Mr. Reese from Widseth has been working with Mr. Sandy and gave a detailed update on the State Park Road Account grant application to resurface Lum Park Road from Highway 210 to the boat landing. They are seeking \$143,000 from the DNR to cover some of the roadwork construction costs. They have letters of recommendation from the County Engineer and DNR Trails and Waterways and believe there is a good chance for funding. Funds will be awarded in April 2022 and there are no conditions attached to the grant. City Council approved funding for the grant application process. The road will be developed with the Lum Park Master Plan in mind. He asked if there were any questions regarding the grant application that is due November 1 and is seeking the Park Board's recommendation to submit the grant application.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS RUSHMEYER AND BOEDER, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE FILING OF THE SPRA GRANT APPLICATION.

Mr. Angland received Park Board feedback on the Lum Park Master Plan from Mr. Sandy, which included highlighting historic elements within the park system, finding additional capacity for camping, identifying and trimming trees for more viewing areas for the Ski Loons, and recommendations for a different model of hand dryer. Ms. Martel presented an updated rendering of the Lum Park Master Plan with additional campground parking and an expanded disc golf area that could alternately be used for more camping spots. Historic signage could be placed by the stone ring and the former main entry gate. Renderings modeled after what is being done at Kiwanis Park and the Milford Mine facility were provided, and design standards established by the Park Board will be incorporated. Mr. Rushmeyer would like an access in the southeast quadrant for people coming off the trail and/or tent camping. Mr. Yeager suggested a foot path from the main upper parking lot to the beach and pavilion area and prefers that most parking is further away from the beach. Mr. Shipe suggested having bags, horseshoes, and bocce ball along the foot path from the upper parking area to the beach. Mr. Badeaux voiced a concern about tying the two disc golf areas together somehow, especially if one of the holes in the original course is going to be moved and replaced by a retention pond.

New Business

Discussion on Hitch-Wayne Park Improvements - Approved

Mr. Yeager presented proposed improvements to the Big Sev sliding hill at Hitch-Wayne Park. Brushing and clearing would be self-performed by maintenance staff. Mr. Badeaux said Councilman O'Day brought this up for winter sledding and because of the condition of the park in the summer. Mr. Badeaux went there this summer and said it is like walking into a jungle. He said if this is designated as a park, we need to make it cleaner and safer and less conducive to unwanted activities. Mr. Yeager has a concern about collision points at the bottom of the hill with sleds coming from both directions. Ms. Schaefer asked if there is any concern about parking. She said that Vine Street gets packed on a good sledding day. Mr. Yeager responded that this represents exactly what the Parking Commission wants for parking; on-street parking not improved lots. He said the Park Board can look at this if a problem comes up but he doesn't see it as a problem. Mr. Rushmeyer asked if we had to worry about making it ADA accessible. The Board will direct staff to look into that. Ms. Schaefer doesn't want to clear all the trees. Mr. Badeaux and board members agreed that if it is going to be called a park people should be able to walk into it and see their surroundings from a safety standpoint. Better signage is needed, and maybe some lighting other than streetlights. Ms. Kaufman commented that CLC's Natural Resources program uses this area for nature class work. She didn't know if anything has been planted purposefully for pollinating

but can check with CLC. Mr. Chanski offered the services of City Tree Inspector James Kramvik to advise the Parks staff on any trees that should or should not be removed.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS RUSHMEYER AND BOEDER, DULY CARRIED, TO DIRECT STAFF TO CLEAR A SLEDDING HILL AT HITCH-WAYNE PARK AS PRESENTED. FEEDBACK FROM CLC MAY BE CONSIDERED, BUT SAFETY SHOULD SUPERCEDE OTHER USAGE.

Gregory Park Christmas Tree - Discussion

Mr. Yeager said the Board talked about the possibility of putting up a Christmas tree near the fountain at Gregory Park last year. They questioned if the fountain could bear the weight of a natural tree. Mr. Badeaux reported that Community Action has received inquiries again this year about using the fountain as a place to put a Christmas tree that can be seen from downtown. It came up as part of a discussion about redoing the downtown Christmas decorations. Mr. Badeaux researched options of lights in the shape of a tree. If this is something the Park Board is interested in Mr. Badeaux can continue to research. He got one quote for \$5,500 for a 25' tree with an 8' base. Board members were receptive to the idea and gave Mr. Badeaux the green light to move forward with research. He said preferably it would be privately funded and the Park Board would not be asked to pay for it.

Public Forum

The Chair opened and closed the Public Forum at 4:49 p.m.

City Administrator Report

Ms. Bergman reported the City will remove the 150th banners from downtown and replace them with the hometown holiday banners. The Parking Commission gave recommendations to the City Council that included increasing lot rents for parking spaces in city-owned lots and a discussion on parking meters which will be forwarded to the Safety and Public Works Committee. Revenues over expenses from both could be used to continue improvements in downtown Brainerd. She commended the Parking Commission for doing a great job. City Council is working on a streetlight policy and heard from its consultant on the Zoning Code update. The first phase is the residential zoning code; the next phase will be the commercial zoning code.

City Engineer and Recreation Coordinator Report

Ms. Kaufman recapped her written report.

In his absence Mr. Sandy asked the Board to review his portion of the report and to follow up with him if they have any questions.

Mr. Chanski updated the Board on the Mississippi Landing Trailhead project. The Project Management Team has met three times since WSB was selected to design and manage construction of the park and decided to discuss items with the most intricacy first. The thought process is to identify and address any issues with intricate items early on to avoid delays with getting the project out for bid and to start on schedule in the spring. Items the PMT has discussed include the restrooms, amphitheater, canoe/kayak launch, river steps, river overlook, hill overlook, and promenade. The three considerations for each item are budget, maintenance and durability, and design elements such as color, façade materials, aesthetics, etc., which will follow the design

October 26, 2021

standards established by the Park Board. He provided a quick rundown of the recommendations the PMT has identified so far. The restrooms should be precast concrete with stainless steel fixtures which are much more durable long-term, will guard against vandalism, and be a lot cheaper. The four-stall, unisex, handicapped accessible bathrooms will potentially come in less than half of the original budget. They are still attempting to reach the School District for discussion of potentially partnering with them regarding the ballfield bathrooms across the street. The canoe/kayak launch should be comprised of pervious concrete pavers up to the high-water mark so there is a solid foundation when you are getting in and out of your canoe or kayak and it will be ADA accessible. The trail leading to the kayak launch should be crushed granite that will be ADA accessible. The amphitheater structure should be primarily a precast structure with elements matching those of the stonework throughout the park system, especially Kiwanis and Rotary parks. Timbers for the roof structure should be like that of the Rotary Park pavilion. You can make precast look like wood but it makes the structure a lot cheaper, more durable, and easier to maintain. The tiered seating around the amphitheater should be irrigated grass. There was discussion about turf because of durability and not having to mow it, but if it is the only turf in the park system it's not a cost effective option because you may have to invest in equipment to maintain it. The PMT recommends colored concrete block for the walls of the tiered amphitheater seating, river steps, and hill overlook. It is much cheaper than poured concrete and will be used elsewhere in the park and throughout the city for a consistent look. The promenade behind the amphitheater will be approximately 20' wide to allow for food trucks or other vendors for markets and events. It should be constructed of stamped concrete with a pattern that invokes elements of the Mississippi River and lined with trees every 20-30'. The river overlook should partially extend over the river bluff to allow views up and down the river. WSB is figuring out how far it can extend over the bluff before it runs into issues with the DNR and the support pillars going into the river. The educational pavilion which is a big element of this park has not been discussed but it is anticipated the structure will be primarily a precast structure with design elements that closely follow those of the amphitheater so there is consistency throughout the park and with the design standards. Preliminary cost estimates have not been received from WSB, but the PMT believes the proposed design elements should result in certain areas of the project coming in significantly under budget. This may allow for the construction of the amphitheater and river steps, both of which are alternate bids. If bids come in favorably the alternates will be incorporated with construction next summer. Upcoming items the PMT will discuss are the trailhead piece of the park, play space, site lighting, site furnishings, landscaping, signage, wayfinding, and trails. There were no questions from the Park Board.

Ms. Schaefer volunteered at the Great Pumpkin Festival and encouraged everyone on the Park Board to volunteer at these events. She said it was very cool to see what we are doing as a Park Board.

Adjourn

MOVED AND SECONDED AT 5:05 P.M. BY SCHAEFER AND SHIPE, DULY CARRIED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist

October 26, 2021