

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the special meeting of the Brainerd Park Board was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Co Chair Yeager.

Upon roll call, the following board members were noted present: Boeder, Schaefer, Shipe, and Yeager.

Also noted present were City Council Liaison Badeaux, City Engineer/Public Works Director Dehn, Recreation Coordinator Kaufman.

Approval of the Agenda - Approved

MOVED AND SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBERS SHIPE AND SCHAEFER, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

New Business

Lum Park Master Planning

Mr. Yeager opened discussion for Lum Park master planning. City Council Liaison Badeaux brought to attention the Lum Park/State Park Road is scoped to have a slight narrowing. Badeaux and Mr. Dehn also discussed the future trail connection over to Cuyuna Lakes trails and the potential for great traffic from this route connection, in and out of Brainerd. Mr. Dehn stated the City Council did recommend ARPA funds for Lum Park Beach, Jaycees, Kiwanis clearing and the Campground expansion.

The Board went through the Master Planning worksheet item by item. As far as summer features, the board agrees that tennis/pickleball/basketball courts would be a great option. The board agrees that camping should be expanded. Board discussed whether sand volleyball courts are being used, maybe they should use this area for tennis/pickleball area or even additional camping. The stone arch would be a great location for a trailhead and the board would like that stone arch to be incorporated that way. They noted that this park does not have wide open spaces, and there are some lower swamp areas to be aware of that would require fill to develop. Also, there is a dead end which would be a smart location to place lower vandalized park options and keep those areas that tend to be vandalized in a more central, visible area. Thoughts were shared about an indoor pickleball structure for the winter months. The disc golf area is great and should be kept, just needs some improvements with the tee boxes; most likely not to be expanded. The playground equipment is very scattered and old. Plans should include more robust playground equipment with more seating and shade areas around for kids/guardians to gather.

The board expressed concerns about expanding the beach but also not causing lake residents to be upset by the busyness. There will always be a slight tug of war with some lakeshore residents. They discussed the parking lots and where they should add or remove parking, potentially making more of a drop-off zone/handicap only area closer to the beach along with ADA pathways and keeping the parking area further away. Recreation Coordinator Kaufmann stated that typically there is plenty of parking and people will walk.

The board discussed where to have a Trailhead with signage, thinking of the lowlands, would it be possible to build yurts with plank walkways to connect. Can the lowland space be utilized and create revenue? Potentially, this is a project you can work with the high school shop classes for the build. The stone arch needs to be preserved, no one knows for sure what the original structure was.

The fishing pier is a busy area, is it possible to add another pier or add wings/extend the current pier? Mr. Dehn stated that Mr. Harris has been exploring if this pier can be extended.

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As far as winter sports, a pleasure rink with lighting and potentially using pavilion with temporary walls for warming house would be a great option. Ski trails through the back woods and along the side of the bike path was another idea suggested. No need for a fountain in this park.

There is a need for new signage at the park with trailhead information, history, before/after pictures of the park. Lots of trees will need to be planted back into the park after losing so many from the storms. The board mentioned they should get the tree report from James Kramvik so they can order trees for the spring. A lit flagpole would be a nice option by the main sign.

After much discussion, the board decided adding a dog park to Lum Park is probably not the best option. Buster Park is a very busy and loved park, but is this a park we want to encourage more dogs off leash or in the water? All agreed that they should plan a dog park for a different park.

There are currently two larger and two smaller picnic shelters. The large ones can be reserved. The smaller shelters are cool, but make the park feel disorganized and out of place. Can they be moved? They are in rough shape as is. The slabs are in good shape, so it is the vertical structure that needs repair. Moving them is more than likely cost neutral. The two options are to leave as is or scrape them; board thinks best to just maintain them. It would be possible to add a nature walk or built-in bags down by the stand-alone shelter to make it feel more connected.

A conversation on bike stations near the trailhead started a different topic on parking and a potential for charging a parking pass to park and have boat trailers, etc. in Lum Park. Cuyuna has a small yearly fee to park in their lots for the bike trails.

The old office building is still going to be coming down. Is the cold storage building going to be needed for anything specific such as lawnmowers or maintenance, etc? Could it be used for a camp host building/check in or shower house? It is in a prime location near the campground.

Overall, the board has decided to keep with the Widseth design on the bottom of the park and design the top area by the beach with these new ideas. With this design, the camping is expanded by using a pull through design for added spaces. The board questioned if additional parking is necessary? If the bike trail connection starts to have heavy usage, parking areas may need to expand. Mr. Yeager will take these ideas and work on a drawing for the Lum Park Master Plan.

Public Forum

Co Chair Yeager opened and closed the Public Forum at 5:24 p.m.

Adjourn

MOVED AND SECONDED BY SHIPE AND BOEDER, DULY CARRIED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:25 P.M TO THE REGULAR PARK BOARD MEETING ON NOVEMBER 22, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cari LaRose, Administrative Specialist

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