

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

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

Also noted as present, Mayor Badeaux, Public Works Director/City Engineer Dehn, and Recreation Specialist Blank.

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

Election of Officers

Member Shipe nominated Member Miller for Board Chair.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS SHIPE AND RUSHMEYER, DULY CARRIED, TO ELECT MEMBER JOHNATHAN MILLER TO BOARD CHAIR.

Member Rushmeyer nominated Member Shipe for Board Vice-President.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS RUSHMEYER AND MILLER, DULY CARRIED, TO ELECT MEMBER ANDREW SHIPE TO BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Consent Calendar

Chair Miller read the "Notice to Public" for the Consent Calendar.

Upon roll call, members Rushmeyer, Schaefer, Shipe and Miller voted "aye". No member voted "nay" in approval of the consent calendar.

New Business

Authorize Bidding for 2024 ARPA Projects

Public Works Director, Dehn, presented estimates for ARPA projects. Dehn is requesting direction from the Park Board on whether to authorize bidding with current estimates that are \$25,000 over budget with the possibility of additional expenses of \$10-\$15,000 to be added in. If bidding commences as drawn in the plans with current estimates, we will then need to go back to the City Council and either ask for additional capital budget dollars or ask them to allow us to reallocate some savings in other capital items. Examples of savings would include in-house demo and reducing the project scopes after we know the bid numbers.

Chair Miller stated concern regarding keeping the vision of the park board with respect to the projects if after receiving bids, items need to be removed from the projects to create cost adjustments.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS RUSHMEYER AND SCHAEFER, DULY CARRIED, TO AUTHORIZE BIDDING FOR 2024 ARPA PROJECTS.

Approve Quote for Lum Park Office Building Demolition

Public Works Director, Dehn, reviewed plans for demolition stating costs involved.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS SCHAEFER AND SHIPE, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE BID FROM DECHANTAL EXCAVATING TO PERFORM THE LUM PARK BUILDING DEMOLITION WITH LEFT OVER FUNDS BEING ALLOCATED TO THE FOUR PARK ARPA PROJECTS, IF NEEDED.

Discuss Ski Loons Work Group Update

Public Works Director Dehn referenced the work group meeting with Sargeant Thesing and City Attorney Langel to gather information on the Park Board's responsibilities, options, liabilities, and other considerations regarding operations on Rice Lake.

Chair Miller recommended having a further work group to have discussions with more people to try to unite both sides of the issue of a potential Ski Loon contract. Chair Miller also reiterated the city does not have any liability once the dock is removed.

Member Rushmeyer referenced what a lengthy, ongoing "battle" it has been on the inside within the Park Board, while also mentioning the "battle" going on the outside between the Ski Loons and the residents of Rice Lake. He reinforced the importance of safety and with the beach being expanded and the kayak rentals added to Lum Park, these additions will be attracting more people to the area. Member Rushmeyer also mentioned that the Park Board has the legal right to shut the Ski Loons operation down.

Chair Miller recommended both sides bring proposals of reasonable expectations and successions to the next Park Board meeting and then the Park Board would try to craft something in a separate work session and then provide a public hearing.

Public Works Director Dehn summarized the direction of the Park Board discussion to be that there is general support from the Park Board to establish a public hearing and public input session at the next regular meeting. Proposals from both groups would be included in the meeting packet.

Information on Skatepark Grant Program

Public Works Director, Dehn pointed out that there is no grant deadline for applications, and the funds are available during the 2-year budget period until the appropriation has been expended. It's basically a first come, first served situation. A rough cash estimate for the City contribution would be \$330,000 on a \$1,000,000 grant. The proposed skatepark would be owned and maintained by the City.

Mayor Dave Badeaux indicated he has been in contact with an individual at the state level working with this grant and Mayor Badeaux was informed the state is very interested in this project and considers it to be one of the higher ranked projects in the state in terms of work that has been accomplished to this point. There is a possibility in the grant language shifting as to what is and isn't allowed and this could cause potential for some additional dollars becoming available.

Update on Memorial Park Disc Golf Course

Public Works Director Dehn mentioned progress on the disc golf course stating the site is being prepped and locations are being tested. Rotation of the baskets would create some additional costs.

Public Forum

Chair Miller opened the Public Forum at 4:55 PM.

Wayne Harting, 14813 Wonderland Park Rd, Brainerd, MN, came forward and handed out paperwork to the Board members. Mr. Harting began to speak about the information in the paperwork. Chair Miller reminded Mr. Harting the public forum was for items not on the agenda. Public Works Director, Dehn informed Mr. Harting the City has a process for information requests that would help Mr. Harting and we will reach out to Mr. Harting to have him fill out this request.

Deanne Barry, Director of The Center, 803 Kingwood Street came forward. Barry was asking to be on the agenda next month to request approval to do performances in the Gregory Park Bandstand from June through August. Public Works Director Dehn informed Barry that he would coordinate with her to get the item set up on the next Park Board agenda.

Public Forum was closed at 5:01 PM by Chair Miller.

Staff Reports

Public Works Director Dehn introduced new staff, Kathy Johansen, Administrative Specialist and Haley Blank, Recreation Specialist.

Update given by Public Works Director, Dehn regarding pond hockey kicking off, but rink conditions have been deteriorating with weather conditions. The February Skating party is still scheduled, but weather could possibly affect being able to host the party. Director Dehn asked the Board for permission to move the skating party to Bane Park, rather than Gregory, to use the larger rink which will allow for more games and activities. The Board gave approval for the relocation of the skating party.

Public Works Director Dehn recommended Haley Blank assist in starting to market the Community Garden as HR Director Schubert is retiring this spring. She has been the partner between the City and the FFA. Director Dehn wanted to verify the Board had no apprehension in making this change. The Board was in favor of the recommendation.

Public Works Director Dehn advised that a meeting with Rent.Fun for kayak rentals was recently held and some decisions will need to be made regarding rates, memberships, and options and this will be shared at the next Park Board meeting.

Chair Miller recommended that fees/prices presented for the kayak rentals be explored with other similar entities that have used this type of service for cost comparisons. Member Rushmeyer also mentioned the possibility of having the public involved in what options we choose in using the kayak service.

Member Rushmeyer referenced a conversation held during a prior Board meeting regarding the job description for the Recreation Specialist position. Member Rushmeyer recommended a revisit of the conversation to determine what tasks are necessary in this position that will best serve the City. Chair Miller and Member Shipe encouraged Recreation Specialist, Blank to bring fresh ideas to the board along with thoughts on how to incorporate resident involvement in event decision making.

January 23, 2024

Board Reports

Chair Miller welcomed Johansen and Blank in their new positions with the City of Brainerd.

Mayor Badeaux requested that event applications that involve alcohol not be included in the consent calendar. Board members were in favor of the request.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY RUSHMEYER AND SHIPE, DULY CARRIED, TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:14 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Johansen, Administrative Specialist