

Call to Order

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 Miller in the City Council Chambers.

Roll Call

Upon roll call, the following board members were noted present: Sandy, Schaefer, and Chair Miller. Members Berns and Shipe were noted as absent.

Also noted as present Public Works Director Habighorst and Mayor Badeaux.

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

Approval of Agenda

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS SANDY AND SCHAEFER, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA ADDING PRESENTATION REGARDING BRAINERD COMMUNITY ACTION BANNER PROGRAM.

Approval of Consent Calendar

- A. **Approval of Minutes**
- B. **Approval of Disbursements**
- C. **Financial Reports**

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS SANDY AND SCHAEFER TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

Upon roll call, Members Sandy, Schaefer, and Miller voted “aye”. No member voted “nay” in approval of the consent calendar.

Unfinished Business

Discussion on Pickleball Courts

Public Works Director Habighorst discussed meetings that were held about either converting a couple of tennis courts to pickleball courts or configuring the tennis courts to a dual-purpose court at Gregory Park to accommodate both amenities.

Member Miller wants to gather information about the tennis courts for usage. Member Miller would like Public Works Director Habighorst to gather more information on consensus with the Tennis Association before making the final decision.

The board agreed to talk about the consensus of the tennis courts' next meeting for final decision.

Discussion on Banner Program

Mayor Badeaux was approached about the banner program and what it could look like for the Parks Department. Potentially looking at moving in a different direction with the Brainerd/Baxter Baseball Association and looking to making an offer to the city for banners on
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the four baseball fields. They would like to purchase and install four new score boards for the youth baseball fields for usage and availability of usage. Talked about score boards not working and not having access to the score boards. The association would like to purchase score boards they can access through apps or other devices so they can be controlled easily so there is more usage of the score boards for baseball. The estimated cost for score boards would be roughly \$25,000 and installation where the association would cover the cost. The association asks that they will take over the banner program for the four baseball fields and all proceeds would go to the association to cover future costs. Another thought would be to discuss community action look at individual amenities and individual programs that could be utilized and do and advertising that would get funded back to that amenity. Create a system for funds for all different associations and manage by that association for future costs for future projects and having consistency. Having something set in place for all future associations.

Member Sandy asked for clarification about the banner program funds that would be funneled back into that amenity and a cookie cutter program that could be applied to any other amenity. Would like to investigate this program with regulations and procedures that are the same across the board.

Member Miller suggested that having the associations with a new banner process and giving their vision and utilizing the money for things that they need and anything that would need to be updated then the association could be able to assist with cost.

Public Works Director Habighorst likes the approach of the banner program with the funds going back into programs/associations.

Mayor Badeaux brought forth that this would be amenity specific, with the same process across the board for any association for anyone that donated for one amenity will go to that amenity.

Member Sandy stated that the first step would be an identification process and bring the list forward to the Park Board as a starting point.

Member Miller suggested establishing a work group for the banner program with Public Works Director Habighorst, Recreation Specialist, Community Action, and Park Board Member to move forward to get the fundamentals in place.

Mayor Badeaux stated that the Baseball Association is ready to move forward.

Member Sandy asked if the Park Board needs to have these meetings before they pull the Baseball Association in.

Member Miller stated that they needed the fundamental side of everything and then come back to Park Board with those findings and liaison will be discussed and decided for the Park Board for the banner program.

The Park Board agreed to move forward with possible new processes.

New Business

Approve the Park Board 2025 Meeting Schedule

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS MILLER, SCHAEFER, AND SANDY, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE 2025 PARK BOARD SCHEDULE.

Public Forum

December 17, 2024

Chair Miller opened public forum at 4:40 p.m.

No one came forward.

Chair Miller closed public forum at 4:40 p.m.

Staff Reports

Public Works Director Habighorst stated that the Transit Department will be providing two rides to tour the Winter Wonderland Lights. Brainerd community Action will be covering the cost of admission, the riders will pay for the ride.

Public Works Director Habighorst also talked about the new Recreational Specialist starting in January and how we will start incorporating downtown events. Cultivating special events downtown Brainerd.

Board Reports

Member Sandy stated that the YMCA started up a daycare facility and how that is a great amenity to the community.

Chair Miller stated that he is very excited about pickleball and wanting Brainerd to be the central place for it and that we have a great opportunity to create courts and to continue the conversation with getting the amenity for the community.

Kara Schaefer wanted to bring up Lum Park beach again and to get the beach nice and clean and to have a plan for this summer.

Public Works Director Habighorst informed board members that he has discussed this with the streets department and will be working with the DNR to make sure we are following compliance and to make sure the beach is in great shape for the summer.

Adjourn

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS MILLER, SANDY, AND SCHAEFER, DULY CARRIED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Asbach, Administrative Specialist