

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Brainerd City Council and Park Board Workshop was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Council Vice President Johnson

Upon roll call, the following Council Members were noted as present: Terry, Stenglein, Johnson, Czezczok, O'Day, Stunek, and Mayor Badeaux. Park Board Members noted as present: Miller, Schaefer, Yeager, and Shipe. The following staff members were noted as present: Administrator Bergman, Finance Director Hillman, City Engineer/ Public Works Director Dehn, Community Development Director Kramvik, Deputy Police Chief Davis, and Administrative Specialist 2 Ziemer.

Discussion of Lum Park Beach Facility

Council Vice Chair Johnson asked the Council and Park Board whether they wanted a second bathroom facility at the Lum Park Beach. Generally, members agreed that they did not want a second restroom facility.

City Engineer Dehn clarified that there is general consensus on the need for a pavilion at Lum Park. The application for the grant will include a washing station and pavilion.

Member Czezczok asked about the master planning process and the proposed amenities at Lum Park that were provided in the packet.

Park Member Yeager gave an overview of why master planning was taken on by the Park Board. It was two-fold in that the vision and maintenance of our current parks and space planning for the future.

Park Chair Shipe stated that the Park Board is aligned in the need for shade and somewhere to rinse off with this grant application.

Discuss Alcohol in Parks

Park Chair Shipe gave an overview of how the discussion came about with the Park Board. The Park Board is generally in favor of having alcohol in parks during adult athletics, in the campground, and at events.

Vice Chair Johnson stated that the draft ordinance that was brought before Council is reflective of how the Park Board would like to see events handled but leaves out other instances and planned events.

Member Stunek stated that places where youth athletics are taking place is a place where alcohol does not belong.

City Engineer/ Public Works Director Dehn asked about events with alcohol on-sale with a permit. Generally, the group agreed that events should have a permitting process including requiring a temporary liquor license as reflected in the original draft ordinance.

Finance Director Hillman outlined some limitations to the temporary liquor licensing process that would limit the number of events an organization could hold per year.

Member Terry stated that alcohol is the highest substance misused by youth. Offering public spaces that are alcohol free as an option for those who choose to use our parks in an

alcohol free way should have that opportunity. Therefore, based on the data, she does not agree with all parks having alcohol.

Mayor Badeaux stated that on the Community Action side of things, they are not interested in doing things outside of what the City will allow. Secondly, for events that take place in City spaces that are not parks, the ordinance should include language for these types of events as well.

Administrator Bergman differentiated between “shall” be required to have police presence and “may” be required to have police presence at an event.

Discussion took place around smaller private events and allowing alcohol.

Vice Chair Johnson stated that the current ordinance was brought to his attention last summer and does not reflect the current practice, either the ordinance or the enforcement needs to change.

Member Terry stated she had requested information on reservations for all of the facilities in the last couple of years. If this process will allow some to rent facilities and consume alcohol and not others based on what kind of event they are hosting, she struggles with what the criteria would be used to ensure that the City is not judging an event.

Member O’Day stated that he is in favor of having alcohol consumption associated with events and adult events. He stated that the Police Department should have the ultimate discretion.

Park Member Yeager stated that he believes this discussion is too complicated. The parks should either not allow alcohol or alcohol open and deal with the behaviors on a case-by-case basis. Alcohol is in every park every day during the summer.

Member Stunek stated that he had previously asked about the number of incidents that have taken place at parks in connection to alcohol and there were very few if any in the last few years.

Vice Chair Johnson stated that if the City allowed alcohol in parks, the Police Department would respond to underage drinking, misconduct, and public intoxication type behaviors.

Member Terry stated that occurrences at parks are insignificant. She likened the current ordinance to the seat belt law changing. The seat belt violations have decreased with the ability to ticket as a primary offense. With the allowance of alcohol in parks she hopes it would decrease the number of bad behaviors.

Discussion took place about designating certain parks as alcohol and smoke free.

City Administrator Bergman recapped discussion for clarity: allowed at parks other than the parks to be identified by the Park Board to be alcohol free. Small private events would notify the City if they plan to provide alcohol when they reserve a facility, and on-sale at large events with a temporary license or caterer not in coordination with youth athletic events. At events, the alcohol vendor is responsible for controlling consumption.

Discussion of Parks Operating and Capital Budget Process

City Engineer/ Public Works Director Dehn guided discussion on parks capital planning and budget. He asked Council what they would request as a budget timeline and process.

Discussion took place around having an effective Board under the Charter.

Discussion took place on capital planning schedules with the state of the current infrastructure. Generally, the Council would like to see a detailed and itemized capital plan from the Park Board. After presenting the Park Board budget, the City Council will edit the budget as needed with clear communication as to why. The Council will schedule another workshop with the Park Board once the master planning is complete to get a clearer number of the capital maintenance.

Vice Chair Johnson stated that the end of July would be the most preferable time for the Park Board to present their budget to the Council. When the Personnel and Finance Committee Chair, Council President, City Administrator, and Finance Director meet there already isn't enough time for staff to make changes to the overall budget before it is presented to the City Council.

Mayor Badeaux stated that he appreciated this workshop.

Park Member Yeager stated that almost all grants qualify for new projects or expansion, grants can drive a city to bankruptcy.

Adjourn

The Vice Chair adjourned the workshop at 7:36 p.m.



Jennifer Bergman
City Administrator

Member Czczok asked when the Park Board approves their budget. The Airport Commission submits a preliminary budget in September and approves their budget in February for the current year.

Vice Chair Johnson stated that per the Charter the Park Board must before September 1st present a budget to the City Council. In another section of the Charter it states that on or before September 1st the Chair of the Personnel and Finance Committee, Council President, and City Administrator shall submit to the City Council a preliminary budget for approval. With the same deadline, they cannot present a preliminary budget without the Parks budget as it is 30% of the entire budget. The Charter Commission needs to meet to change the dates.

Park Member Yeager gave an overview of the philosophies of the Park Board in the process of master planning. A large part of the master planning is also future budgetary concerns. What the budget may look like if they take on new projects or no new projects. The current budgetary process is reactive instead of proactive, the City is beginning to see what it costs to maintain "the empire" it already has. A city should be setting 2% of all property each year to maintain it. He asked whether the City wants to embrace a philosophy to plan for the future or continue a reactive budgetary process.

Vice Chair Johnson stated that he wishes we lived in a perfect world where the 2-2.5% is in the capital fund and watch it grow. However, new ideas come about, and the Park Board will spend money on that and something else will go wrong and need to request more funding for something that the City already has.

Mayor Badeaux stated that the Park Board is developing a vision with master planning so that if funding comes available for new equipment there isn't a playground where it would be better to have a basketball court. The philosophy of the current Park Board is that people need space to be with shade and a place to sit and are looking at- what can the City do without. He appreciates all of the work the Park Board has done on master planning.

Park Member Yeager stated that the Park Board needs to figure out how much it will cost to maintain the current infrastructure, repair those things in disrepair, and future ambitions.

City Engineer/ Public Works Director Dehn guided discussion on the budget timeline and current process.

Vice Chair Johnson stated that the current timeline does not work, there is concern for changing the timeline to July during departments busiest times when Staff is already busy.

Mayor Badeaux stated that once the Park Board has presented their budget to the Council in July or early August, that changes be effectively communicated back to them. Park Board meetings are open to the public, he encourages Council Members to attend whenever possible.

Park Chair Shipe stated that completing the master planning is important to developing the budget for 2024. He reviewed their schedule for master planning.

Vice Chair Johnson stated that for budgeting 2024 that the Park Board should do the best they can with the master plan being incomplete. The current practice has been for Council to change portions of the Parks budget without communication based on the needs to the community and the rest of the budget. This workshop is to improve upon that practice and better communicate with the Park Board.