



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Fridley Municipal Center
7071 University Ave NE, Fridley MN 55432

AGENDA – March 2, 2020

DATE: March 2, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Fridley Civic Campus – 7071 University Ave NE, Fridley, MN 55432 – (Banfill Conference Room - upper level next to Council Chambers).

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA FOR MAR. 2, 2020
3. APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES FOR FEB. 3, 2020
4. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS:
 - a. Springbrook Nature Center Video
 - b. Update on Springbrook Pavilion Project (Mike Maher)
 - c. Feedback from Commissioners on Parks Designs
 - d. Joint Fridley School District - Fridley City Council Meeting
 - e. Fee Study Review (Shelter, Fields, Leagues)
 - f. Strategic Planning Discussion
 - g. Other
5. STAFF REPORTS:
 - a. Springbrook Nature Center Update
 - b. Deer Management Update
 - c. Other
6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
 - a. Other
7. ADJOURNMENT

8. Next Meeting: April 6, 2020 at the Fridley Civic Campus – 7 p.m.

Attachments: Feb. 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes, Recreation Division Highlights, Springbrook Nature Center Report



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Fridley Municipal Center
7071 University Ave NE, Fridley MN 55432

MINUTES

February 3, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Heintz was absent. Vice Chair, Shanna Larson called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members present: Dave Kondrick, Shanna Larson, Ryan Gerhard, EB Graham, and Pete Borman

Members absent: Mike Heintz

Others Present: Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager (Parks, Streets and Facilities), Mike Maher (Director of Springbrook Nature Center), Stephen Eggert (Councilmember), Jen Graham (Recreation Coordinator), and Deborah Dahl (Director of Community Services and Employee Resources)

2. APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA FOR FEB. 3, 2020

Vice Chairperson Larson called for a motion to adopt the agenda for the February 3, 2020 meeting agenda. Mr. Kondrick made the MOTION to adopt the agenda, SECONDED by Ms. EB Graham. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

3. APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES FOR JAN. 6, 2020

Vice Chairperson Larson called for a motion to adopt the minutes from the January 6, 2020 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. Mr. Kondrick made the MOTION to approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. EB Graham SECONDED the MOTION. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

4. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS:

- a. Introduction of Jen Graham, Recreation Coordinator

Ms. Dahl introduced Jen Graham who started about a month ago and will coordinate the existing programs and bring new, exciting activities to the department. Ms. Graham talked about her background and said she would be working on recreation programming and helping to bring in some new and

exciting things. Members took a few minutes and introduced themselves to Ms. Graham.

b. Recording Secretary To Be Added

Ms. Dahl reported that the City Council and City Manager, Wally Wysopal, are working to provide support for Commissions by supplying recording secretary assistance in hopes to provide a more efficient and consistent processes. Krista Peterson will be attending meetings and compiling meeting minutes going forward. Ms. Dahl said that the minutes will be in a summarized with less detail. There are plans in the future to provide Commissions with some additional training and support on parliamentary procedures as well.

c. Public Disclosure Forms were collected from members for the City Clerk.

d. Parks Master Plan Update:

Mr. Jensen and Ms. Dahl presented an update on the Parks Master Plan:

- *Finding Your Fun in Fridley* was launched in the Summer of 2018. In the Spring of 2019 staff solicited feedback from on-line surveys and worked with Community Engagement Consultants to host public workshops and gather additional feedback, including introducing an interactive map/survey to the public. In the Fall of 2019 staff researched, gathered data, created and designs along with park-by-park assessments collected by staff. The design firm of HKGi was hired this winter to assist with design concepts and estimations.
- Ms. Dahl said that staff would like to get the Park & Rec Commission's feedback on the designs and concepts for the three larger signature parks and discuss the next steps.

The Master Plan divides the 38 parks into categories of Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Special Use Facilities and Community (Signature) Parks. Improving the 38 parks will take time and funding. Staff is suggested starting with a 10-year plan, but if the cost is larger than anticipated it may be a 15-year plan. Contractors may be hired to do much of the reconstruction since it is currently difficult for staff to keep up with just the park maintenance.

- Design themes and concepts were covered for the three larger signature parks were presented by Jeff Jensen.
 - *Commons Park* – located in a central location, improved play-based equipment, water play (splash pad using recycled water), new basketball court, high-quality play equipment and rentable space for parties and events.
 - *Moore Lake, the "Gateway to the City"* – good trail access, improved water access and recreational activities (kayak, paddle board, updated fishing areas, preserving volleyball courts and update on the beach area), improved play-based equipment, improved amenities (walking loops, signage, benches, picnic areas, natural area for fishing and bird watching, off-leash dog park). Water quality issues will be addressed in the report as well.
 - *Community Park* – Connect with Civic Campus, create a stronger sense of a town center and community gathering space, consider an overpass or tunnel over/under Highway 65, multi-fields use (more soccer), improved amenities for passive use, trail around perimeter, lighted skating rink (rental or free use of skates), fire pit, and incorporate landscaping, botanical gardens, community gardens and/or edible orchards.

- Mr. Jensen said that his recommendation would be to complete 3-4 neighborhood parks a year along with a larger signature park.

- Commissioners asked if the links to the plans could be e-mailed to commissioners. Ms. Dahl said she would be able to send those out.

- This master plan is still in a draft form. The next steps include finalizing general concepts and estimates, identifying revenue sources, creating an implementation plan (park by park), including the report adopted by the Commission and Council, setting up community engagement sessions and soliciting additional feedback. It is hoped to finalize the report and implementation plan with feedback from the public and then launch the plan with the 2021 budget.

- Once a budget is created, staff will look for areas where to get revenues by outreaching to community partners or looking for grants that may be available. Concessions would also bring in money along with renting facilities out for events.

- If the Commission has any additional comments or ideas to incorporate into the plan, they should email staff.

e. Twin City Gateway and Proposed Tournaments

USA Softball Tournament is coming to Fridley the Friday/Saturday of the 49'er Days and the Lions have agreed to do concessions.

Also, a National Girls Fast Pitch Softball Tournament (Ages 14+) will be hosted in Fridley. They will be bringing 32-40 teams and a fair amount of external businesses for this event. There will be an opening ceremony, parade and souvenir shop.

Twin City Gateway has done a good job at getting the word out that Fridley is a great place for tournaments. This is great recognition for the City of Fridley.

f. Connecting Fridley Events

Three neighborhood events called "Connecting Fridley" were created to get the community out to the parks. Dates were mentioned in the agenda packet. The Community Development Department and Recycling program will be present at the event, along with representatives from other departments.

g. Event Vehicle

Staff showed pictures of the fire rescue truck that is no longer in use and has been painted white, which will be used as a "Recreation on the Go" vehicle for events and activities. A question came up to see if it could also be rented out for block or birthday parties. Staff will look into it.

5. STAFF REPORTS:

- a. Mike Maher and Jeff Jensen provided an update on the Pavilion at Springbrook, stating the work is almost complete. Commissioners were informed that a grand opening will be held on May 28 and encouraged to attend. More information and invites to be out soon.
- b. Ms. Graham provided a report on Winterfest, stating the event was well-attended (350-400) despite the extremely cold weather. She said that many positive comments were shared that it was great having the event at the Nature Center.

- c. Mr. Maher updated the commission members that the deer management plan is progressing. Further information will be provided to members once final plans are in place.

6. OTHER:

No other business was considered.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Kondrick made the MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m., SECONDED by Ms. Graham. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Minutes prepared and submitted By Krista Johnson, Recording Secretary

5. STAFF REPORTS

a. Springbrook Nature Center

Mr. Maher gave an update on the pavilion. The interior is almost complete and waiting on the flooring. The grand opening is scheduled for May 28. There have been a lot of in-kind donations but still \$50,000 short for the project.

b. Winterfest

About 350-400 people attended and the facility was amazing. A lot of young families attended, and it was very cold. Staff have heard a lot of positive feedback from attendees. Thanks to all staff involved with organizing and working the event.

c. Deer Management Update

Permits are in place and we met with the contractor who will be doing the deer removal work. Locations were scouted throughout the City to find the safest, most effective locations. The plan is to finish this up in the next week or so.

d. 49'ers Update

We are looking for a new parade coordinator. Someone will come forward and the Lions are committed to make sure the parade will happen. There is a lot of planning that needs to happen before the parade.

e. Other

Friday was the first "Pop Up" tent event and we are planning an event every month. About 30-40 people came and some saw the event on Facebook. Visitors receive a free mug, one per family, and they sign in to receive the mug.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Larson made the MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., SECONDED by Mr. Kondrick. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Peterson, Recording Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS



Parks and Recreation Division- March 2, 2020

Finding Your Fun in Fridley!

The new year kicked off with a couple of exciting programs to get folks out exploring Fridley parks. The first of which is 'Finding Your Fun In Fridley' featuring **pop-up events** throughout the park system where attendees can take part in a range of activities from sledding to skating while enjoying hot cocoa. Participants will also receive a free reusable travel mug that they can refill at future events throughout the winter.

After School Programs

The third round of After School programming began in early February with over 60 participants. This session, held again at Hayes Elementary, features a mix of enrichment and athletic classes (including fencing). One program did cancel due to low participation.

Sharing Resources with Spring Lake Park

The Division continues to foster a relationship with the City of Spring Lake Park's Recreation Department through cooperating on field trips. This helps keep transportation fees down, making trips more viable when Fridley has lower numbers. Recently, staff met with SLP staff to discuss further programming opportunities such as adult pickle ball.

Adult Programs

Based on player feedback in the **Adult Men's Basketball Leagues**, we have instituted a new rating system to monitor the referee's performance. We contract out with the refereeing firm and feel that this process aids in monitoring the contractor's accountability. Additionally, this helps keep the teams responsible as well. This method will encourage the sportsmanship of both teams to perform at an acceptable level, including towards the referees.

New sessions of **Yoga, Zumba and Aqua Zumba** began recently with an increased enrollment from last session. We are continuing to work with Community Ed on these programs to accept registrations and communicate with instructors and participants.

The February installment of '**Finding Fridley Fun**' was a hit! The event was held at **Springbrook Nature Center** on Sunday, Feb. 23rd. The pop-up coincided with the weekly animal feeding which typically has 20-50 attendees. However, this particular week more than 100 were in attendance. Feedback received from attendees was that many are interested in preschool programming, fitness/wellness ideas, and trail maps.

Shelter Rentals Now Open

The office has noticed in an increase in shelter rental inquiries recently and staff remain busy with summer planning. To begin the shelter rental process, go to city's website and search on facilities or contact Park and Rec at: recreation@fridleymn.gov. Call staff directly to get more information at 763-572-3570.

Community Engagement – Partnership Meeting A Success!

More than 20 representatives attended the Fridley Community Network (FCN) Meeting held on Feb. 6, 2020 at the Mississippi Branch Library. The Fridley Community Network is comprised of members from multiple community organizations in Fridley with the purpose of building connections and relationships between community organizations, to share resources, collaborate, as well as to partner on community programs, projects, and events. The group is led in partnership with staff from the City of Fridley (Alyssa Kruzel), Mississippi Library (Shannon Melham), and Fridley Community Education (Stephen Keeler). Meetings will be held quarterly. Any community group that would like to become involved should contact: alyssa.kruzel@fridleymn.gov.

Neighborhood Events Coming This Summer - *Connecting Fridley*

June 24 Sylvan Hills Park

July 22 Madsen Park

Aug 12 Meadowland Park from 6-8 p.m.

Mark your calendars and join us this summer at the park for "Connecting Fridley"! Enjoy lawn games, recreation activities, a bounce house, arts and crafts from Banfil-Locke, story time with Mississippi Library, and light refreshments. Make connections with your neighbors and city staff! Learn more about city services and programs!

Engagement staff is collaborating with staff across multiple departments and division to determine what information they can inform and educate community members about at the events. Engagement staff will work closely with Marketing and Communications to promote the event as well.

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Springbrook Nature Center

Monthly Report – March 2020



- The Pavilion Activity Center project is ongoing with a grand opening event planned for May 28th
 - A special thank you to Mike Heintz for coordinating an in-kind contribution of labor and materials to install an epoxy floor finish in the enclosed activity space and restrooms.
 - Over the coming months, additional work will include plumbing fixtures and cabinetry.
 - Tables and chairs have been purchased and assembled.
 - A \$10,000 grant for the project has been received from BNSF Railway Foundation.
 - The Foundation Development Committee continues to meet. A request from the City of Fridley for a contribution of funds from the Foundation in the amount of \$25,000 was granted, leaving a funding gap of approximately \$25,000 to complete the project, purchase picnic tables, etc.
- School programming continues with our Adams Elementary, Spring Lake Park ECFE, Fridley Public Schools and Columbia Heights Encore Programming partnerships and weekly parent-child classes.
- We have been awarded two grants for habitat improvements at Springbrook Nature Center, with some work to be completed at Moore Lake Sand Dunes Natural Area. The grants are in the amounts of \$37,000 and \$51,450. The work will remove invasive buckthorn and include prescribed burns. Buckthorn cutting is complete at the nature center with follow up burns and herbicide application planned for later this year.
- Staff is working hard to complete a new exhibit featuring two large microscopes with digital displays that explores the concept of biomimicry, which is design inspired by nature. The microscopes and displays are available for use and the finishing touches are being put on the interpretive panels.
- A candlelight hike was held on February 14th and was enjoyed by 70 participants.
- 11 weeks of our fun Summer day camp are being planned. Registration is open and can be found at: <https://springbrooknaturecenter.org/808/Summer-Camps>. Hiring for summer staff is nearly complete.
- The Springbrook Spree fundraiser will be held on March 7th. Please consider purchasing tickets for this enjoyable event that raises funds to support Springbrook Nature Center.
- The 2020 Discovery Dinner series kicks off on March 21st featuring a program on wild canids of Minnesota from the Wildlife Science Center. Sue Okerstrom of Lichen Labs will present a Discovery Dinner on biomimicry on Saturday, April 4th – please mark your calendars and plan on attending!
- The Springbrook Nature Center volunteer appreciation brunch was held on Saturday, February 15th from 10 am until noon. We celebrated the accomplishments of about 60 Springbrook volunteers who help with animal care, bird banding, special events, Board service and much more.



Interior of Pavilion Activity Center near completion



New biomimicry exhibit featuring Microeye Discovery microscopes