



## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Fridley Municipal Center  
7071 University Ave NE, Fridley MN 55432

### MINUTES

February 3, 2020

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#### 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