

**BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**Regular Park Board Meeting**  
**February 26, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.**  
**City Hall Conference Room**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regular meeting of the  
Parks and Recreation Board was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present were President Troy Rushmeyer, Dale Parks, Kara Schaefer, City Council Liaison Dave Badeaux and Park Director Tony Sailer. Tim Boeder and Kevin Yeager were absent.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

**MOVED AND SECONDED BY PARKS AND SCHAEFER,  
DULY CARRIED TO APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PRESENTED**

- A. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held January 22, 2019**
- B. Approval of the disbursements for the month of February 2019**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Ski Loons Update**

The chair recognized Chris Dens, President of the Brainerd Ski Loons. Mr. Dens shared information about the ski club and its involvement with the community. He stated that changes will be made for the upcoming season that will hopefully alleviate the issues brought before the Park Board last year by residents that live next to the park. The ski jump will be moved about 200' west and closer to shore, and they are switching the layout of the docks and the ski patterns, to lessen the traffic directly in front of the neighbors' docks. Ms. Schaefer asked if any practices would be able to be moved to another location, which was discussed by board members last year. Mr. Dens explained that isn't feasible because there would be too much equipment to transport from Lum Park, plus the boats are stored close to the park. The club will do its best to have smaller groups practice upriver if possible. Practices will still be Monday through Thursday evenings, with "big practices" (30-50 people) on Mondays and Wednesdays. Shows are scheduled for July 14, Aug. 4, Aug. 11 and Aug. 14. Mr. Parks thanked Mr. Dens for his willingness to accommodate the neighbors' concerns, and also for putting on the free shows for the community.

**B. Splash Pad Update**

The chair recognized Emily Noble, representing the Brainerd Splash Pad fundraiser. She reported that \$75,000 has been raised toward the project. She said they haven't given up, but are at a standstill at the moment. Larger potential contributors won't come forward until more money has been raised. They have considered using the funds raised to create a "Phase I", which would consist of a small concrete pad with some sprayers, picnic tables and benches, which would at least be a start to the project and provide something for the public to enjoy. Mr. Rushmeyer praised their efforts to date, and encouraged them to keep trying. Board members agreed that more people are needed to help with fundraising, and suggested recruiting volunteers through social media, the Brainerd Dispatch and local radio stations.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Project Rainbow Request**

Organizers of this annual gathering are requesting permission to have amplified DJ music at this year's event, which will be held at Gregory Park on June 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. It has been held at Lum and Kiwanis parks in the past, and is a family-friendly event. Mr. Parks made a motion to approve the request, Ms. Shaefer seconded and board approval was unanimous.

### **B. Buster Park Lights**

Users of Buster Park have submitted requests for lights at the dog park, via survey results and individual comments. Lights are especially needed for the winter months when it is dark by 5:00 p.m. Staff received two quotes for lighting; one from Illumient, a Chicago-based solar company, and the other from Brainerd Public Utilities for electrical lighting. The solar cost would be \$4,032.90 per pole, so \$12,098.70 for three poles. BPU's proposal comes to \$6,941.66 for three poles. Staff is requesting the use of Park Dedication funds for the project. Board members were favorable to the project; leaning toward BPU's proposal due to the high cost of solar lights. Mr. Badeaux pointed out that Park Dedication funds will be nearly depleted after the Meadows Park playground equipment and lights for the dog park are purchased. Ms. Schaefer suggested that since we are nearly into March and events are planned for Buster Park this year, maybe we could delay the project until fall and some funds could be raised between now and then. Mr. Parks made a motion to table the item to the July Park Board meeting; Ms. Schaefer seconded and board approval was unanimous.

### **C. The Meadows Park Playground**

Staff presented bids and designs from three companies for the Meadows Park playground. Board members favored staff's recommended design received from St. Croix Recreation with a cost of \$29,996, but they would like to see a taller slide if that is an option while staying within the \$30,000 budget. The Park Board approved \$15,000 for the project in 2018 and the City Council matched that amount in 2019. Mr. Sailer is also asking for \$2,000 from Park Dedication funds for the wood chips and border for the new playground. Mr. Parks made a motion to approve a \$29,996 design from St. Croix Recreation for the Meadows Park playground, with a taller slide if within the \$30,000 budget, and an additional \$2,000 for wood chips and a border. Ms. Schaefer seconded and board approval was unanimous.

### **D. Memorial Park Project**

Mr. Sailer reported that Carolyn Wolf, senior project manager at McGough Construction in the Twins Cities, has volunteered to assist in the redesign of Memorial Park. She is working on plans to phase in the development of the four-field softball complex with the least amount of disruption to the adult softball season, as well as placement of the hockey rinks, warming house and World War II memorial. He added that the WWII memorial may not have to be moved very far from the original proposed location.

Mr. Parks left the meeting at this point, leaving the meeting without a quorum.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

## **CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

No report.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Approximately 170 individuals attended the annual Valentine's Day skating party Feb. 16 at Gregory Park. Donations were received from Viking Coca-Cola and Wendy's, and individuals also provided goodies to share.
- The Pond Hockey season concluded with the On Golden Pond Jamboree at the Gold Medal Arena on Feb. 24.
- Show dates for the Brainerd Ski Loons will be July 14, Aug. 4, Aug. 11 and Aug. 14. The first three shows begin at 5 p.m. and the last show will begin at 6:30 p.m.
- The Early Bird adult softball tournament will be April 27, the Co-Rec state softball tournament will be Aug. 24 and the Masters state tournament will be Aug. 25. All games will be played at Memorial and Mill Avenue parks.
- The City Council approved Katie Kaufman's promotion to Recreation Coordinator, effective Feb. 17.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, March 26, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. at the Conference Room at City Hall.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 5:12 p.m. was made by Ms. Schaefer and seconded by Mr. Rushmeyer. The chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist