

BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Regular Park Board Meeting
April 23, 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, Tim Boeder, Kara Schaefer, Kevin Yeager, City Council Liaison Dave Badeaux and Park Director Tony Sailer. Also noted present were Christopher Dens from the Brainerd Ski Loons and Wayne and Stacey Harting.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

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

- A. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held March 26, 2019**
- B. Approval of the disbursements for the month of April 2019**

OLD BUSINESS

A. Ski Loons

Christopher Dens, President of the Brainerd Ski Loons club, defended the changes he presented at the February Park Board meeting in regards to the complaint lodged by Wayne and Stacey Harting about the club's excessive use of Rice Lake in front of their dock. The Hartings were very disappointed that Park Board approval was again given for the Ski Loons to practice from the Lum Park location four nights a week throughout the summer months, stating that basically, as concerned taxpayers, they are allowed to use the lake three days a week. Dr. Dens spoke at length about how the club is fulfilling its mission statement by providing a valuable opportunity for the community, and they are respectful of fisherman and other users of the lake. The Hartings disagreed with a number of Dr. Dens' statements and reiterated how they have no desire to shut down the club's activities, but instead would like a compromise that would allow them more evenings to enjoy their home. Board members suggested a number of different ideas and options, none of which Dr. Dens felt would be possible for the club to implement. The Board expressed concern about the club's unwillingness to compromise. Discussion ended up centering on what they, as a board, could do. Rice Lake is under the jurisdiction of Crow Wing County, but access to the Ski Loons' dock is on park property. Board members discussed limiting the Ski Loons' access to the dock to specific days and hours, and that a contract should be drawn up. Mr. Sailer was directed to visit with the City Attorney regarding the dock access and a contract. Discussion was tabled to the May meeting, unless a special board meeting needs to be called before that time.

B. Gregory Park Warming House

The single initial bid received by the deadline for the proposed facility at Gregory Park was too high, so staff spoke with the two contractors that expressed interest, and they plan to submit revised plans/bids prior to the May Park Board meeting.

C. Memorial Park Design/World War II Memorial Location

Kevin Yeager donated his time and talent to prepare a conceptual plan for Memorial Park with fields drawn to scale, which will allow vendors to prepare rough estimates for fencing, lighting and other materials. Estimates are necessary for 2020 budget requests if the Park Board wants to move forward with this design or consider other options. Staff also presented location options for placement of the World War II Memorial where it would not need to be moved due to the re-configuration of the park. Organizers would like the memorial installed by late May. Discussion followed.

Mr. Parks made a motion to accept the conceptual plan for Memorial Park, and to place the WW II memorial at the north end of the existing parking lot. Mr. Boeder seconded and board approval was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Buffalo Hills-Lions Park Scoreboard

As part of its vendor contract, Viking Coca-Cola donated \$2,500 toward the purchase of a scoreboard for Field 2 at Buffalo Hills-Lions Park. The overall cost of the scoreboard including freight and installation costs will be approximately \$4,995. Previous donations in the Park Dedication Fund from the Brainerd Lions Club totalling \$2,233 were designated for Buffalo Hills-Lions Park. Staff is requesting use of these funds to be used toward the new scoreboard. Any additional expenses will be taken from the Parks maintenance budget. Mr. Parks made a motion to accept the recommendation as proposed by staff to use donated funds from Viking Coca-Cola and the Brainerd Lions Club for the new scoreboard at Buffalo Hills-Lions Park. Mr. Boeder seconded and board approval was unanimous.

PUBLIC FORUM

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

No report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- On April 20 the Easter Egg Hunt took place at Gregory Park and the Easter Ball Hunt was at Buster Park. It is estimated that 525 children participated in the Easter Egg Hunt, and 35 dogs in the Easter Ball Hunt.
- The men's softball leagues will begin play on April 23 and 24.
- Staff will assist with Arbor Day activities at Garfield School on April 26.
- Sixteen teams are entered in the Early Bird softball tournament scheduled at Memorial Park on April 27.
- The Lakes Area Bicycle Clinic will take place from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on May 4, at the Forestview Middle School parking lot. Staff co-sponsors the event along with Essentia Health, the Brainerd and Baxter police departments, and area bicycle shops.
- The Mommy & Me special activity will take place May 11 at Lum Park in celebration of Mother's Day. For a small fee to cover costs, parents and children can paint a flower pot and plant a flower. The fee covers the cost of flower pots, dirt and seeds.
- Staff will meet with a representative of St. Croix Recreation, the City Engineer and Parks staff on April 26 to determine the prep work required for the installation of the Meadows Park playground. The installation should be completed by the first week in June.
- Staff began installing the new scoreboards at Memorial Park softball fields. A winter storm and rain has slowed the progress.
- KLN Family Brands, Perham, donated \$500 toward the lighting project at Buster Park.
- Brooke Fultz will plant and care for flowers this summer at the planter located at South 6th and Washington streets.
- More than 5,600 skaters were recorded at the three warming houses this past winter. There were numerous closures due to weather conditions.
- Cub Scouts will stack campground firewood to earn environmental badges.
- Operation Sandwich will distribute from Kiwanis, Gregory and Jaycees parks this summer. Last year 10,000 sandwiches were given out. New for 2019, Parks and Recreation will be bringing "Parks on the Go" to Operation Sandwich sites to offer recreational activities to children who might not otherwise have such opportunities. Funding for the program came from the City Council for program development and a grant from Crow Wing Energized.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, May 28, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. at the Conference Room at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:40 p.m. was made by Mr. Boeder and seconded by Ms. Schaefer. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist