

BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Special Park Board Meeting
August 20, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.
Widseth Smith Nolting Conference Room

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

Present were President Troy Rushmeyer, Kevin Yeager, Tim Boeder, City Council Liaison Dave Badeaux and Park Director Tony Sailer. Also noted present were committee member Derek Owen, and Joe Dubel and Tim Houle from Widseth Smith Nolting. Dale Parks and Kara Schaefer were noted absent.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Memorial Park Project

Mr. Sailer turned the meeting over to Tim Houle and Joe Dubel from WSN. Mr. Dubel shared questionnaire responses he received from Park Board members. Discussion centered around the existing parking lot that is owned by Brainerd Industrial Center, and the budget and scope of the project. Mr. Owen indicated that BIC owner Mike Higgins is asking \$300,000 for the parking lot, which also needs to be resurfaced at an estimated cost of \$110,000. Mr. Dubel said a new parking lot comparable in size could be built for around \$330,000. The Park Board will need to make a recommendation regarding the parking lot issue in order to make decisions about placement of park amenities.

WSN's initial cost estimate for the redesign and construction at Memorial Park came in at \$2,500,000, which was the lowest of the RFP's received. Mr. Dubel averaged the three RFP's received and came up with a project estimate of \$3,470,000, which he indicated is a more realistic number, keeping in mind that there are many variables such as building materials used for the various amenities.

Mr. Badeaux indicated that the City Council wants to keep the 2020 tax levy increase as close to zero as possible, and his feelings are that the Council will not approve more than \$1,500,000 for the project. He stressed that relocating the amenities the department is losing at Mill Avenue Park is what Council sees as the scope of the project, which would include an adult softball field without lights, two hockey rinks, a pleasure rink and a warming house. Mr. Dubel responded that if \$1,500,000 is the budget, the city is going to have to realistically look at either increasing the budget or decreasing the scope of the project.

The Park Board's vision for the redesign of Memorial Park is to make it a relevant and multi-purpose facility for decades to come. Mr. Dubel suggested that any changes and additions should be constructed in a way that they won't need to be changed or moved in the future. He added that this doesn't all need to be done at once; and mentioned the possibility of a five or ten year plan. The initial RFP's were for a three-phase redevelopment of Memorial Park over a three-year span.

Committee members discussed design options at length. If \$1,500,000 is the entire amount they have to work with, the initial design will need to be revised and existing infrastructure and amenities will need to be utilized as much as possible. Many ideas were brought forth and discussed.

Park Board members will take ideas and suggestions under advisement and will discuss further at the regular Park Board meeting on August 27.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

PUBLIC FORUM

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, August 27, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. at the Conference Room at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made at 5:26 p.m. by Mr. Boeder and seconded by Mr. Yeager. Board approval was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist