

BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Special Park Board Meeting
September 10, 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 Vice-President Kara Schaefer, Dale Parks, Kevin Yeager, City Council Liaison Dave Badeaux and Park Director Tony Sailer. Also noted present were Joe Dubel and Tim Houle from Widseth Smith Nolting. Troy Rushmeyer and Tim Boeder were noted absent.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Memorial Park Project

Mr. Dubel recapped the September 3 committee meeting that took place before the City Council was presented with the \$2.5M budget request and prior to a meeting with Mike Higgins to discuss the purchase price of the Memorial Park parking lot. Mr. Sailer reported that the City Council did not approve the budget request, but indicated support for the project. His impression was the Council wanted the committee to make a decision regarding the parking lot, then come forward with a plan. Council Liaison Badeaux believes the Council will be more receptive to a plan that is as cost effective as possible. Mr. Sailer and Mr. Yeager met with Mike Higgins, and reported that his asking price of \$300,000 for the parking lot is non-negotiable. Mr Higgins told them the previous lease agreement with the City stated the Park Board was supposed to maintain the parking lot, but Mr. Sailer added that Mr. Higgins also said the parking lot didn't need any work. Mr. Yeager made a motion to move ahead with a conceptual design for Memorial Park that does not include the parking lot owned by Brainerd Industrial Center. Mr. Parks seconded. After further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion moved on to design options, which Mr. Dubel provided on a projection screen. Many ideas were presented and fine-tuned with the budget request to the Council in mind. Committee members ultimately decided to keep the three existing adult softball fields where they are. It won't be the four-field cloverleaf design previously discussed, but the cost savings are significant and the existing restroom and concession buildings that are fairly new can still be used. Mr. Dubel added that park dimensions wouldn't have allowed for a perfect cloverleaf design anyway. It was noted that the fourth field at Mill Avenue Park is only used for two Tuesday night games each week during summer leagues. If adult softball leagues and tournaments show growth, the option to add a fourth field where originally planned will still be there. It was noted by several in attendance that Mills Field could be used as a fourth field if necessary, though it would need to be converted from baseball to softball for those events.

The committee decided on the location for the two hockey rinks, the pleasure rink and a multi-use warming house/pavilion similar to the one at Gregory Park that can be used year around and provide the opportunity for revenue. It was discussed that the existing stadium parking lot will provide enough parking for everything, plus there is on-street parking available for larger events. The committee wants the hockey rink bases to be concrete so they can be used in the summer for pickleball and possibly basketball courts. A second free-standing picnic shelter is proposed near Field 3. A bituminous walking path will connect the parking lot to the concession and restroom area, running between Fields 1 and 2. The trees between Fields 1 and 2 will remain, as they provide a much-needed buffer for foul balls. A gated paved road to allow park staff access to the existing buildings will run from "Q" Street, parallel to the BIC parking lot property line. Mr. Sailer would like to see the pea rock by the existing buildings replaced with asphalt at the same time. Other costs will include utilities to the new structures, a security camera system for the warming house/pavilion, upgraded electrical for the existing field lights, lighted hockey rinks and a playground structure that is more centrally located for parents to be able to keep an eye on their children. Mr. Dubel will work on the conceptual design for the September 17 committee meeting. He estimates the cost to be \$1M or less. Mr. Badeaux thought the City Council would be very receptive to approving funds for this amount.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

PUBLIC FORUM

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. at the Conference Room at Widseth Smith Nolting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made at 5:42 p.m. by Mr. Parks and seconded by Ms. Schaefer. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist