

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the special meeting of the Brainerd Park Board was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Board President Rushmeyer.

Upon roll call, the following members were noted as present: Boeder, Schaefer, Shipe, Yeager, and Rushmeyer. City Council Liaison Dave Badeaux was noted absent.

Also noted present were Recreation Coordinator Kaufman, City Engineer/Public Works Director Sandy, and Travis Miller from TWM Architecture.

Approval of the Agenda - Approved

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS YEAGER AND SHIPE, DULY CARRIED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Unfinished Business

Park Board Work Session-Parks Master Planning

Kiwanis Park Work Session Notes

The chair thanked Mr. Yeager for the drawing of Kiwanis Park which incorporated feedback from the April 5 master planning session. Mr. Yeager said there were not a lot of large-scale changes that came out of that meeting. Projects were mostly condensed to cleaning up the beachfronts on Boom Lake and the Mississippi River and improving a natural launch area and the walkway that comes up from under the bridge. Keeping the brush down to make the park areas more open may also help with vandalism. Mr. Yeager noted that aerial photographs from the 1960's showed a much more open area than what we have now. He spoke with the DNR Fisheries Division about stocking Boom Lake, but this is not permissible because it is connected to the river. There are things that can be done to increase natural fish populations. The Board would like to add winter activities such as track-style skating on the lake. Ms. Schaefer asked and received confirmation that the Board is moving forward with the bathroom renovations this year.

The Chair recognized Bill Holzer, representing the Brainerd Kiwanis Club. He said that club members were planning on clearing brush south of the restroom building and will coordinate the project with the City. The Kiwanis Club would also like to ensure the permanent residency of the duck at the park. Mr. Holzer indicated the club has about \$5,000 set aside for projects at Kiwanis Park. Mr. Yeager asked him to relay the Park Board's appreciation to the Club for its ongoing support.

MOVED AND SECONDED BY MEMBERS YEAGER AND BOEDER, DULY CARRIED, THAT THE DUCK STAYS IN KIWANIS PARK IN PERPETUITY.

The Kiwanis Park master plan will be on the April 26 Regular Park Board Meeting agenda.

Moving south on the GIS map to Rotary Riverside Park, Mr. Yeager outlined the extent of the property that is either parkland or other City-owned parcels. It was noted that Rotary Club has built the entrance arch, parking lot and pavilion, and has Park Board approval to add a fireplace to the pavilion this year. Board members did not feel it was necessary to discuss Rotary Park at

this time, and Mr. Sandy noted that Rotary already has a master plan for the park and it would be good to coordinate efforts with them.

Buster Park Work Session Notes

Discussion moved on to Buster Park and the surrounding Kiwanis parkland. Potential future amenities include horseshoe pits and two-man primitive campsites. There have been requests for a paved parking lot at Buster Dog Park, porta-potties in the summer, and a spigot inside the fenced area. The shelter requires consideration. The Board deferred to Ms. Kaufman who uses the dog park extensively. She said to consider the pavilion for sure, and the original plantings of native plants are all dead. Mr. Sandy said the purpose of the original rain garden plantings were to help filtrate contaminants out of the runoff from the dog park, but they were not maintained. Plantings that would be more tolerant should be considered. Ms. Kaufman would like to see better signage for the park and post the dog park rules inside the fenced areas. More benches in the dog park would be nice. Ms. Kaufman said the pavilion is used a lot and a wind break from the direction of the river is preferred. Mr. Sandy reported that he checked with a playground equipment supplier and there are prefabricated gazebo structures that are virtually maintenance-free. He suggested re-budgeting about \$25,000 for something like that versus what was previously planned. The size of the dog park is deemed adequate. Board members made suggestions for sprucing up the area around the dog park. Mr. Sandy said adding or removing anything below the ordinary high-water level would need to be permitted through the DNR. Mr. Rushmeyer suggested a gazebo umbrella building and horseshoe pits in the large open area. More picnic tables and benches throughout the park area would be good, and a porta-potty structure in the future. Mr. Shipe suggested a dog-washing station if the parking lot gets paved. Mud gets to be an issue when getting dogs from the dog park into their cars. Ms. Schaefer suggested a water bottle filler plus a dog bowl filler instead of a spigot. She said there are water stations that have both. Board members liked that idea. Paved parking would be preferred due to extensive year-round use of this park. People also park there for Buffalo Hills Trail access. Mr. Sandy suggested to request parking lot paving in the 2023 capital budget and get a quote when the City is replacing Jenny Street for a possible cost savings. Bike racks were suggested.

Mr. Yeager will bring a drawing of Buster Park to review at the May 10 planning session, and the Board will discuss Gregory and Triangle parks.

Adjourn

MOVED AND SECONDED AT 5:15 P.M. BY YEAGER AND SHIPE, DULY CARRIED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist

April 19, 2022