

**Wednesday, April 20, 2022  
Recreation & Parks Advisory Commission  
Minutes**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL - The Recreation & Parks Advisory Commission meeting was held at City Hall and on TEAMS and was called to order by Chairperson, Mark Nolen at 6:00 P.M.**

**Commission Members present:**

Mark Nolen, At-large (Chair)  
Christy Sandberg, (Vice-Chair)  
Maggie Borer, At-large  
Latrina Caldwell, At-large  
Monica Dillenburg, Central  
Johnny Hoang, At-large  
Deborah Lande, Central  
Jane Wilson, West  
Kellina Quigley, At-large

Terry Parks City Council Liaison

**Commission Members absent:**

Dwain Erickson, West  
Miriam Osammor, East

James Turnham, City Planning Liaison

**Brooklyn Park Staff present:**

Brad Tullberg, Director of Recreation and Parks  
Marcus Hill, Manager, Facilities and Parks  
Greg Hoag, Parks and Buildings Manager, Operations and Maintenance  
Pam McBride, Manager Youth Services  
Jeanine Machan, Program Assistant III

- 2. OPEN FORUM-PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE**  
N/A

- 3. APPROVAL OF April 20, 2022 AGENDA**

A Motion was made to Approve the April 20, 2022 agenda by Commissioner Dillenburg and second by, Vice-Chair Sandberg.  
Roll call was taken. Motion unanimously approved.

- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM March 16, 2022 MEETING**

A Motion was made to Approve the March 16, 2022 minutes by Commissioner Dillenburg and second by, Vice-Chair Sandberg.  
Roll call was taken. Motion unanimously approved.

- 5. ACTION ITEMS**

- 1. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2022 DEER HUNT**

Director Tullberg gave an oral report on the reasons for the Annual Deer Hunt, shared results of the 2021 hunt, along with the aerial survey results of the January 2022 deer population count. Based on the provided data, staff recommended to the Commission that they recommend to City Council to move forward with the fall of 2022 Controlled Deer Hunt.

2022 Hunt Dates:

- October 3 & 4, October 5th would be reserved as a makeup date in case of inclement weather
- October 31 & November 1, November 2nd would be reserved as a makeup date in case of inclement weather
- November 14, & 15, November 16th would be reserved as a makeup date in case of inclement weather

Comments/Questions:

- Commissioner Wilson commented that car accidents are trending down. Director Tullberg affirmed that the hunt is working to bring the number of car/deer accidents down compared to when the hunt started.
- Commissioner Hoang asked what the hunters wear? Director Tullberg stated that they wear hunters' orange.
- Commissioner Dillenburg stated that there are a specific number of hunters allowed to hunt. Director Tullberg confirmed there is a limited number of hunters per hunt date and hunt zone that is dependent on the size of the hunt zone. There is an extensive application and qualification process that each hunter goes through.

**Motion was made to recommend to City Council to accept the 2021 deer hunt results, authorize the 2022 deer management program, and approve the agreement with the Metro Bowhunters Resource Base to conduct the 2022 hunt by Commissioner Wilson, and second Commissioner Borer.**

**Roll call was taken. Motion passed with one against.**

## **6. GENERAL INFORMATION - PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. CAC IMPROVEMENTS / AQUATICS**

Director Tullberg provided an update on the planning process and options for the site layout for the proposed improvements for the Community Activity Center (CAC).

The CAC improvements project has been identified as one of the top work priorities for the Recreation & Parks Advisory Commission in 2022.

The \$26 million approved in the 2018 Park Bond Referendum included \$4 million for improvements to the CAC entrance and construction of dedicated space for senior activities. The goals of the renovations were identified as:

- Renovate Community Activity Center to improve customer service and experience.
- Make the customer service desk and program space ADA compliant.
- Renovate the front entrance, improve senior facilities, and upgraded restrooms.
- Designate program space specifically for senior fitness and activities and adult programs.
- Additional funds would be needed if other amenities (i.e. aquatics or gym) were to be added.

An additional \$2 million was allocated for the construction of an additional Teen Center was also identified in the 2018 Park Bond Referendum.

Comments/Questions:

- Vice-Chair Sandberg ask for clarification of the question "What is important for Teens in a Recreation Center" versus "what do teens feel is important in a recreation Center", so this was what all ages thinks are important? Director Tullberg stated that it was answered by everyone who took the survey. We did a teen specific survey, but the results are not shown here.
- Commissioner Lande asked if the Brooklyn Bridge Alliance (BBA) has sent out a survey to their constituents and if not, could that be done later as we get into more of the detail planning? Director Tullberg stated that is a good point and staff are considering circling back. Manager McBride stated that every two years the BBA puts out a comprehensive teen and youth participant survey and 2022 is the year for this survey. Part of that survey is about facilities, spaces, and places along with activities.
- Commissioner Dillenburg recalled that she and her daughter had specifically filled out a teen specific survey.

Director Tullberg presented each design option and described the details and differences between each option with each one building on the one before starting with:

Option 1. What can we afford with the money allocated in the 2018 Bond?

- Chairperson Nolen asked if the front parking flooding issue would be taken care of? Director Tullberg stated the issue with the storm sewer inlet would be regraded.

#### Option 2. Other amenities are added such as gym and locker rooms

- Commissioner Borer asked for clarification on the fitness space on the second floor if the space was for individual fitness or space for a fitness class? Director Tullberg responded that it was both in this scenario.
- Manager Hoag stated that the drawings are preliminary. The specific uses of each space are not necessarily defined.
- Director Tullberg pointed out that the senior space would move to the current Central Fire location. This would be tied to the Fire Department redesign of location.
- Councilmember Parks confirmed that City Council has had discussions regarding the move of Central Fire. He stated that the old city hall location that is rented out to Parents in Community Action (PICA) is also part of the discussion. The lease is coming due in June. Director Tullberg stated that PICA is a Head Start daycare and the consensus with staff and council is that PICA fills a need in the community and the lease will be renewed.
- Chairperson Nolen asked if there would be a security entrance at the second location of the main CAC building? Director Tullberg stated staff has discussed that an evening/weekend/event station would be created in the area.

#### Option 3. Adding aquatics and a small teen space.

- Commissioner Dillenburg asked if there has been any discussion regarding the empty space next to Ice Rink 1? Director Tullberg stated there is not a good way to get to this space without going through rink 1. Commissioner Dillenburg mentioned it might be a good spot for a studio for woodworking or metal works.
- Manager Hill brought up the designated entrance for the hockey players.
- Commissioner Borer asked if there were locker rooms for each of the ice rinks? Director Tullberg confirmed the location for both.
- Commissioner Borer asked if staffing hours would be adjusted for the different buildings? Director Tullberg confirmed that a point of contact needs to be there to open and close the buildings as well as greet the people who come.
- Commissioner Lande asked if the target audience for the aquatics was the schools and swim teams? Director Tullberg stated that option 4 was more geared for that audience.

#### Option 4. Adding a fifty-meter pool building.

- Loss of green space.
- Separate utilities and mechanical room.
- Commissioner Borer asked if a separate mechanical room would increase the costs to maintain. Director Tullberg confirmed and stated that aquatics would also require additional staff to run and maintain.
- Commissioner Lande asked what other pool besides Jackson Middle School that has that capacity? Director Tullberg stated that there is also programming at Brooklyn Middle School. Commissioner Lande was wondering about demand in the community.
- Commissioner Lande noted that in the notes section it states Expanded CAC outdoor event space. Director Tullberg stated that would come out as the pool building and parking would eliminate all of the green spaces on the east side of the current drive entrance.
- Commissioner Wilson asked if staff is anticipating the PICA contract would be renewed and that building would stay. Director Tullberg confirmed. They are investing in the structure.
- Manager McBride mentioned there would potentially be a covered walkway between the senior center and the CAC building.
- Commissioner Dillenburg asked how many people took the 2021 Residential survey? Director Tullberg stated this is city wide survey and that 800 people were surveyed. It is a statistically valid survey to the population of Brooklyn Park.
- Commissioner Dillenburg asked if the question was asked if they are willing to pay for aquatic programming classes? Director Tullberg stated that was not a question on this survey.

- Commissioner Dillenburg stated that as kids age, they are less likely to use a 50 meter pool for swimming. Director Tullberg stated that the 50-meter pool is more of a regional draw to bring people into the community for swim competitions.
- Commissioner Hoang stated that both Brooklyn Center and Maple Grove are working on referendums for upgrades to their existing recreation spaces including aquatics. Also, the Brooklyn Park city wide survey is showing that people are willing to pay for it.
- Commissioner Borer stated for clarification that the option 3 provides aquatics without having a 50-meter pool. Director Tullberg confirmed.
- Director Tullberg stated that it is critical for financial sustainability to have an outside partnership to build and maintain a separate 50-meter pool.
- Commissioner Lande asked for clarification that everything on the designs in gray are status quo. Nothing will change in the gray area. Director Tullberg confirmed.
- Commissioner Borer stated as a long-time resident of Brooklyn Park that she would like to see it done so that it would be a draw to compete against surrounding communities. A place that people would be proud to come to. Option 1 is only a facelift.
- Commissioner Wilson commented that if Maple Grove and Brooklyn Center are looking at putting in pools, it seems the area would be over saturated for the target market. Director Tullberg confirmed both are improving existing aquatics facilities.
- Commissioner Hoang stated there is momentum based on the 2021 survey that 76% of the residents are willing to pay for it. We will be left behind compared to the surrounding communities if we only do Option 1.
- Vice-chair Sandberg commented that although she agrees with Commissioners Borer and Hoang, we don't have the money to pay for anything other than Option 1. Going back to the voters to ask for another bond referendum would not be a good thing to do at this time. We should fulfill the commitment we made to the seniors and the teens. Adding the aquatics right now is going to stall the progress. Also, now might not be the right time to be building with the economy out of control.
- Commissioner Dillenburg commented that construction costs are high for a larger project, and we need to work with what we have before we try to spend more.
- Chairperson Nolen stated that the 26 million bond referendum was designed to upgrade the facilities. He stated he is against aquatics unless we have a partner.
- Manager Hill mentioned that when teens are bored that is when they get into trouble. Focus on teens over aquatics would in the long run create a safer city, more opportunities for the teens to get ahead. Transportation to the CAC building is a real issue as the bus line stops south of 85<sup>th</sup>.
- Manager McBride stated that the space at Zanewood is cramped, yet it is amazing what staff is able to program. It would be incredible if they had a facility that was designed to the needs of the teens in the community.
- Commissioner Hoang agreed that the teens center needs to be a priority but sighting the survey responses they want some type of aquatics especially a splash pad.
- Chairperson Nolen noted that the park space improvements have been so great since the referendum. The buildings and lighted paths make them inviting.
- Commissioner Dillenburg stated that operation expenses to maintain whatever we build must be considered for budget purposes.
- Councilmember Parks stated that if aquatics had been on the 2018 referendum it would not have passed. A conscious decision was made to take it off.
- Commissioner Lande asked if a splash pad could be outside of a building? Director Tullberg stated that it could be done with an estimated cost of \$1 million for change room/ bathroom buildings, utilities and plumbing.
- Commissioner Borer asked for clarification that the money we have would provide for the lobby refresh and senior center but not for teens? Director Tullberg stated there is \$2M for a teen center and would engage in a similar process to what has been done for the CAC improvements, however, if we include work force space this would open opportunities for additional funding.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

N/A

## **8. WRITTEN REPORTS**

### **1. PROGRAM AND EVENTS UPDATE**

- Commissioner Dillenburg stated that the Ice Show held at the CAC building was very good.
- Manager of Youth Services Pam McBride wanted to highlight in the written report the addition of data point information and how it relates to outcomes. This was an addition to the written reports Commissioners were interested in seeing. Director Tullberg stated that this would be shared quarterly.
- Manager McBride also promoted the Cops and Teens basketball event to be held April 26<sup>th</sup> at Zanewood.

### **2. PARK PROJECTS UPDATE**

- Manager of Park Operations Greg Hoag highlighted the event to be held at Lakeland Park on May 14 to plant 100 trees. A link to sign up / volunteer will be sent to all Commissioners.
- Manager Hoag noted that the Arbor Tree sale through the city was going very well with record sales.
- Director Tullberg highlighted Noble Sports Park Baseball Field Improvements. Staff rejected all bids due to the costs more than \$300k over what was estimated by the architect. Staff is considering a rescope of the project without changing the vision or outcome. Staff plans to rebid in June and stay on schedule for construction in the fall of 2022.

### **3. 2022 RPAC AREA OF EMPHASIS REPORT**

No discussion

### **4. DIRECTORS REPORT**

No discussion

## **9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. OPEN FORUM – QUESTION AND ANSWERS**

Commissioner Dillenburg asked about the decision by City Council regarding the chickens.

Councilmember Parks responded the agenda item was tabled due to the Avian Flu that is occurring.

## **10. VERBAL REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **1. CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – COUNCILMEMBER PARKS**

Councilmember Parks reported that the City Council has been working on:

- Truth in Taxation and Housing Board of Appeals
- Preparation of the upcoming elections. Possibility of 4 new City Council members.

### **2. CITY PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATES – COMMISSIONER TURNHAM**

No report

### **3. CENTER For INNOVATION And The ARTS PROJECT UPDATE– COMMISSIONER WILSON**

Commissioner Wilson stated there was no new report. The next meeting is in July.

A reminder about the Stages of Equity Festival April 28 – 30, 2022 at NHCC.

### **4. RPAC COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

N/A

### **5. KEY TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT RPAC MEETING – May 18, 2022**

Commissioners and staff will tour Operation & Maintenance at 5:30 Building B

#### 6. KEY DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

- May 2, 2022 City Council Workshop on the CAC Improvements
- MN Twins & Toro field renovations at Northwoods Park 8:00 A.M.

Commissioner Borer asked Director Tullberg if the Commissioners were requested to be at the May 2 City Council meeting. Director Tullberg stated it was not a requirement.

#### 11. ADJOURNMENT

**A Motion was made by Commissioner Dillenburg to close the meeting, second by Vice-Chair Sandberg. Motion unanimously approved. Adjourned by Chairperson Nolen was at 8:19 P.M.**

Submitted respectfully,  
Jeanine Machan  
Secretary