

**Wednesday, February 16, 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 6:30 P.M.**

Commission Members present:

Mark Nolen, At-large (Chair)
Christy Sandberg, (Vice-Chair)
Maggie Borer, At-large
Latrina Caldwell, At-large
Dwain Erickson, West
Colleen Groebner, At-large
Johnny Hoang, At-large
Cindi Matthew, Central
Miriam Osammor, East
Jane Wilson, West
Boyd Morson City Council Liaison

Commission Members absent:

Monica Dillenburg, Central
Francis Killen, At-large
James Turnham, City Planning Liaison

Brooklyn Park Staff present:

Brad Tullberg, Director of Recreation and Parks
Greg Hoag, Parks and Buildings Manager, Operations and Maintenance
Kelly Mertes, Recreation Supervisor

2. OPEN FORUM-PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE

N/A

3. APPROVAL OF February 16, 2022 AGENDA

A Motion was made to Approve the February 16, 2022 agenda by Commissioner Hoang and second by, Commissioner Borer

Roll call was taken. Motion unanimously approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM January 19, 2022 MEETING

A Motion was made to Approve the January 19, 2022 minutes by Commissioner Erickson and second by, Commissioner Hoang

Note: Commissioner Sandburg noted that Commissioner Dillenburg's name is spelled wrong in a couple of places.

Roll call was taken. Motion unanimously approved.

5. ACTION ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF RPAC WORK PLAN

Chairperson Nolen reminded the members of the work that was done at the January meeting on the RPAC work plan. He asked if there was any discussion before a vote was taken to approve the work plan.

Director Tullberg summarized the work plan and stated the top three actions based on the members votes were:

1. Reimagining Public Safety
2. Activating Age Friendly Work
3. CAC Improvements/Possible Aquatics

Director Tullberg stated staff will work on the other items as needed, however the majority of time

will be spent of the top three items.

- Councilmember Morson asked where consideration for Zanewood was. Director Tullberg stated that the CAC Improvements included a new or improved youth recreation center that may be located at Zanewood.

Chairperson Nolen asked for an approval motion for the work plan priorities for 2022.

Motion was made by Commissioner Borer to approve the work plan priorities for 2022, a second was made by Commissioner Hoang.

Roll call was taken. Motion unanimously approved.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION - PRESENTATIONS

1. AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY UPDATE

Director Tullberg introduced Kelly Mertes, Recreation Supervisor and lead on the Age Friendly work for the city.

Supervisor Mertes gave a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the work of staff within the city for the aging community of Brooklyn Park. Highlights of the presentation are:

- Task force began 2014, Community engagement began in 2018, Internal work began in 2019. 2020 and COVID-19 introduced a new outreach support as well as joining the AAEP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities. 2021-2022 has and will include re-engagement with community organizations and connecting with diverse elders in the community along with the creation of a 3-year action plan.
- Age-Friendly initiatives that have already been completed include: Park System improvements of looped trails, lighting on trails and additional seating, AARP Community Challenge Grant used to purchase AccessTrax, NHCC life-long learning classes on campus, Alzheimer's Association of MN reconnecting with community, participation in Age-Friendly MN, North Memorial Community Engagement Advisory Team and Active Aging Resource Fair.
- Community Outreach – letting community members know we are here for them and to find out what they need.
- New partnership with University of MN School of Public Health & Elder Research
- Vision Loss Resource
- Health on the Go
- CAC Improvements project Engagement
- Internal city work includes Update Age-Friendly staff and community resource list, update the Age-Friendly page on the city website and Recreation & Parks department work such as special programming.

Supervisor Mertes asked for any questions or comments:

- Commissioner Hoang asked about the funds from the CARES Act and what is the plan after these funds are gone? Supervisor Mertes responded that the Age-Friendly work is funded by the city as we currently do not have an Age-Friendly specific budget. The CARES dollars were used to fund specific outreach work during COVID-19.
- Commissioner Hoang – for long term is the work sustainable and or can it be improved? Supervisor Mertes stated the great thing about the Age-Friendly initiative is that a lot of the work being done does not require monies to be spent to sustain. Much of the work is looking at what is being offered and how we can do it differently to make sure we have in place what it is needed for community members require to age well in the city.
- Commissioner Hoang suggested contacting the schools to find ways that kids and aging populations might interact.
- Councilmember Morson asked what has staff identified that are multi-cultural programs? Supervisor Mertes stated that the COVID programs identified with many BIPOC individuals. Also working with the senior housing facilities staff to identify how staff can serve the BIPOC individuals living in these facilities. Also, staff is looking at the scholarship programs for Age-Friendly programming to help individuals of lower income to participate in programs that they might not otherwise. Also working with partners that focus on diverse backgrounds that can provide staff with ideas and opportunities that BIPOC individuals would be interested in. Director Tullberg acknowledged that a focus of the Age-Friendly work will be on reaching out to the BIPOC community.
- Commissioner Groebner asked for clarification on the CEAP and scholarship program for seniors seems to center around low-income individuals, what outreach is being done

for individuals in other economic levels? Supervisor Mertes stated that the resource list that the staff is utilizing touches on all economic and cultural backgrounds.

- Supervisor Mertes ending by plugging the Resource Fair on Friday, May 20 and stated that if any of the Commissioners know of groups or organizations that serves seniors that would be interested in a space to contact her for more information.

2. MISSISSIPPI GATEWAY REGIONAL PARK UPDATE

Director Tullberg gave a PowerPoint presentation created by WSB that was presented to City Council on January 24, 2022 on the proposed design of the Mississippi Gateway Regional Park and an update on the progress to date. The highlights were as follows:

Process

- Community Engagement and Joint Master Planning with Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) began in 2016
- Approval of cooperative agreement with TRPD for the development and maintenance of Mississippi Gateway Regional Park and Environmental Nature Area in 2020
- Schematic Design and cost estimating in 2021

Budget

- City of Brooklyn Park is committed to \$4.5M for design, construction and contingency
- TRPD responsible for development of east portion of the park, O & M building, trail realignment.
- Collaborate to secure other funding sources (state bonding (\$5M), grants, etc.)
- Funding for West River Road underpass will be contingent on successfully securing federal funds for the project
- To keep design within budget, staff are considering options like prefabricated buildings for bathrooms and kitchen on the west unit not shown in this presentation.
- Current inflationary pressure is challenging the budget parameters
 - Commissioner Erickson asked if MGRP is part of the Mississippi National River & Recreation Area (MNRRA)? Director Tullberg stated the entire stretch in Brooklyn Park is indeed part of the MNRRA.
 - Commissioner Erickson asked if fishing will be encouraged in this park. Director Tullberg confirmed that it will be encouraged even with fishing pole rentals and fishing nodes similar to the design at River Park.
 - Councilmember Morson asked if solar panels are being discussed. Manager Hoag stated there has been some discussion.
 - Commissioner Erickson asked if TRPD was doing any improvements to the Coon Rapids side at the same time as this project. Director Tullberg stated he was not aware of any work.
 - Councilmember Morson asked about lighting. Director Tullberg stated that those detail discussions are beginning.

Overall Project Schedule

- SCHEMATIC DESIGN: Completed 2021
 - DESIGN DEVELOPMENT: Winter - Summer, 2022
 - CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS: Summer, 2022 – Winter, 2023
 - CONSTRUCTION: Spring, 2023 – Fall, 2025
 - GRAND OPENING: Summer 2026
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- Director Tullberg stated that inflationary costs have been built into the costs, but not at the rate that materials and labor have increased recently. TRPD is planning to go back to the state to ask for additional funds if necessary.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- CITY COUNCIL JANUARY 24 – Update on the Design Development of Mississippi Gateway Regional Park
- CITY COUNCIL JANUARY 24 - Approval of the Park Ordinances
- BROOKLYN PARK COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY JANUARY 27
 - Director Tullberg stated that we had 40 community members in attendance and many questions and comments were received.

8. WRITTEN REPORTS

1. PROGRAM AND EVENTS UPDATE
2. PARK PROJECTS UPDATE

3. **DIRECTORS REPORT**
No questions or comments

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. **OPEN FORUM – QUESTION AND ANSWERS**

- Commissioner Hoang asked when does the Commission begin the work from the work plan priorities. Director Tullberg stated that the written reports will provide updates on the work the staff is addressing. Staff will be bringing back to the Commission work updates for the Commissioners feedback. Commissioner Hoang asked how the Commissioners follow-up on this work before the next scheduled meeting since RPAC meets only once a month. Director Tullberg stated that staff will try to provide on a monthly basis in the packet updates to the priorities in conjunction with agenda presentations.
- Councilmember Morson asked when amplified sound was implemented? Director Tullberg stated it was 2015. He stated further that it needs to be revisited.
- Commissioner Erickson asked if there was any further work on the encroachment issue. Director Tullberg responded that the work would begin in the spring with the Code Enforcement Department.

10. VERBAL REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. **CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – COUNCILMEMBER MORSON**

Councilmember Morson reported:

- He is excited about the Three Rivers project. However, he is concerned about the funding of the project.
- XP Lee was elected to fill the seventh position on the City Council.

b. **CITY PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATES – COMMISSIONER TURNHAM**

No Report

c. **CENTER FOR INNOVATION AND THE ARTS PROJECT UPDATE– COMMISSIONER WILSON**

Commissioner Wilson reported that a meeting was held on January 27, 2022. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- Meeting was optimistic
- Legislative updates included the State House Capital Investment Committee toured North Hennepin in November and learned more about the project. Senator Hoffman will be the sponsor in the Senate and Representative Nelson will be the sponsor in the House.
- Senator Hoffman is fairly optimistic about the chances for funding in the next legislative session.
- Commissioner Wilson stated that Dean Kathy Hendrickson reported the goal is to get programming on the grounds to be visible to the community even before the building goes up.
- Fundraising feasibility concept – a firm will be contracted to conduct a study with the community to determine how much money might be raised through the community.
 - Commissioner Erickson asked who are the partners on this project? Director Tullberg and Commissioner Wilson responded; North Hennepin Community College, City of Brooklyn Park, Osseo School District and Hennepin County. City of Maple Grove attends the meetings.

d. **RPAC COMMISSIONER UPDATES**

Director Tullberg reported that the city did not receive enough applicants to fill the vacancies on the Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission. He requested Commission members to notify staff if they know of anyone who might be interested. There are 4 vacancies and two have been filled.

e. **KEY TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT RPAC MEETING – MARCH 16, 2022**

- By-law update.

f. KEY DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

- Director Tullberg announced a special event on Friday, February 25, Recreation and Parks and the Community Engagement department are hosting a Black History Month at the CAC starting at 5:00 PM. It is also a vaccination event.
- Chairperson Nolen announced that on Monday, February 28 he will be providing the annual RPAC report to the City Council regarding the achievements from 2021 and Work Plan for 2022.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion was made by Commissioner Erickson to close the meeting, second by Commissioner Wilson. Motion unanimously approved. Adjourned by Chairperson Nolen was at 7:56 P.M.

Submitted respectfully,
Jeanine Machan
Secretary