

Wednesday, May 18, 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 6:03 P.M.**

Commission Members present:

Mark Nolen, At-large (Chair)
Christy Sandberg, (Vice-Chair)
Latrina Caldwell, At-large
Monica Dillenburg, Central
Dwain Erickson, West
Johnny Hoang, At-large
Miriam Osammor, East
Kellina Quigley, At-large

Terry Parks City Council Liaison

Commission Members absent:

Maggie Borer, At-large
Deborah Lande, Central
Jane Wilson, West

James Turnham, City Planning Liaison

Brooklyn Park Staff present:

Brad Tullberg, Director of Recreation and Parks
Dan Ruiz, Director of Operations and Maintenance
Jen Gillard, Manager Recreation and Programming Services
Marcus Hill, Manager, Facilities and Parks
Greg Hoag, Parks and Buildings Manager, Operations and Maintenance
Christopher Sullivan, Field Supervisor, Operations and Maintenance
Jeanine Machan, Program Assistant III

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

- 3. APPROVAL OF May 18, 2022 AGENDA**

A Motion was made to Approve the May 18, 2022 agenda by Commissioner Dillenburg and second by, Commissioner Sandberg.
Motion unanimously approved.

- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM April 20, 2022 MEETING**

A Motion was made to Approve the April 20, 2022 minutes by Commissioner Dillenburg and second by, Commissioner Sandberg.
Motion unanimously approved.

- 5. ACTION ITEMS**

N/A

- 6. GENERAL INFORMATION - PRESENTATIONS**

1. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Greg Hoag, Operations and Maintenance Parks and Buildings Manager introduced Director of Operations and Maintenance Dan Ruiz and Field Supervisor Chris Sullivan.

Director Ruiz provided the background partnering of Park and Recreation Department with Operations and Maintenance. Manager Hoag provided a PowerPoint presentation (see attached), an overview of the relationship with Recreation and Parks and the highlights of work performed by O & M Department.

Highlights of the presentation:

- Overall public works, utilities and park infrastructure of City of Brooklyn Park
- Organizational Chart of Operations and Maintenance
- Historic and current staffing levels
- Core Services of the Park Operations Division:
 - Recreation Program Support – Athletic Fields
 - Trails and Parking Lots
 - Maintenance of Park Buildings and Structures
 - Forestry and Natural Resources
 - Special Events (Tater Daze)
 - Special Projects i.e. Park Bond project management and execution
- Current Challenges and Budget Considerations
 - Hiring of seasonal staff
 - During COVID a position was eliminated. Unable to reinstate the position.
 - Budget constraints

Questions/Comments:

- Commissioner Hoang asked if it was cheaper to recycle or to have trash? Manager Hoag stated recycling is cheaper in that the city has to pay to dump the trash.
- Commissioner Osammor asked where the garbage was collected from? Manager Hoag stated from the 60 parks and the O&M campus.
- Commissioner Sandberg asked why the tonnage of garbage went up so much from previous years? Manager Hoag stated that parks are getting used more during COVID, more illegal dumping from individuals who don't have trash service at home or business.
- Commissioner Erickson asked if staff has ever approached the Cities of Brooklyn Center and Champlin to see if they have the same issues with getting staff. Manager Hoag stated that every city in the metro is having the same issue with staffing. Director Tullberg stated that Recreation and Park Programming is having the same problem with finding staff and holding on to them. Manager Gillard stated decisions will be made to cancel programming if staff is unable to hire enough seasonal employees.
- Commissioner Hoang asked if programs are being evaluated by what gets the most use? Manager Gillard stated that programming and youth services staff is looking into sharing staff, using Brooklynk interns and ways to reorganize programming before cutting.
- Commissioner Caldwell asked what kind of staff is being sought? Manager Gillard stated the department is looking for Rec-on-the-Go, Fusion, Inclusion, course instructors basically across the whole department.

2. SUMMER EVENTS PREVIEW

Manager Recreation and Programming Services, Jen Gillard presented the 2022 Summer Events preview. (See attached memo to City Manager, City Council along with calendar of events and PowerPoint presentation)

Questions/Comments:

- Commissioner Caldwell asked how can she get involved? Manager Gillard suggested sending an email to Jake Patton who coordinates the events and will be setting up volunteers.
- Commissioner Hoang suggested consistency in programming in the parks with a suggestion of music in the parks every weekend.
- Commissioner Caldwell suggested different types of music other than jazz.
- Commissioner Osammor suggested sending reminder emails to people who registered.
- Commissioner Caldwell asked how graduations in the park were going? Director Tullberg stated that last year was the highest rental usage on record and this year is on track to do the same.
- Commissioner Erickson asked about a central location for big events? Director Tullberg stated there are two potential areas. 1) the park land that is set aside at the end of the light rail in the northwest corner of the city at 101st and Winnetka. Development of the area is on hold waiting for a final decision on the light rail. 2) CAC redevelopment included a great lawn space for public

gatherings. Commissioner Erickson commented the area at 101 and Winnetka is not necessarily central to the city. Director Tullberg acknowledged but stated there are many proposed stops on the light rail that would provide transportation to the park from other locations in the city.

Unfortunately this is a long term solution.

- Commissioner Hoang commented that the redevelopment at the CAC seems to be the best option.

7. OLD BUSINESS

1. BROOKLYN PARK REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY - CITY COUNCIL APRIL 25, 2022

Director Tullberg emphasis the cooperation between the Recreation and Park, Community Development and Police divisions within the city to work on public safety.

- Commissioner Hoang asked about the Police Cadets. Director Tullberg stated they would start the week of May 23rd.

2. CAC IMPROVEMENTS - CITY COUNCIL MAY 2, 2022

Director Tullberg reported that 6 of the 7 City Council members wanted to move forward with Option #3 which included the CAC improvements pool area and two gyms. Does not include the 50m pool. The cost is \$47 million. Funding was not discussed. Director Tullberg stated there are several projects on the City Council agenda requiring funding such as the fire department improvements, light rail, Center for the Innovation of Arts and Highway 252 reconstruction.

- Commissioner Sandberg asked with this decision where do the senior and teen center projects stand? Director Tullberg stated that the senior center is part of Option #3. The teen center would be a separate project that Manager Hill has begun work on with architects on preliminary design concepts.

With the senior center as part of Option #3, completion of a new senior space will be held up pending funding decisions. This could result in another 2 year wait for referendum voting.

- Commissioner Dillenburg asked what the next step is? Director Tullberg stated that staff from Rec and Park, Finance and Fire along with the Assistant City Manager and City Manager will meet to strategize a funding proposal. Options will be presented to City Council likely in June.

8. WRITTEN REPORTS

1. PROGRAM AND EVENTS UPDATE

Director Tullberg stated that a decision has been made not to reopen Nature Preschool in the Fall of 2022. The decision was made based on several points. The program never broke even in the history of its run which was fine when it served the Brooklyn Park residents. However, in recent years the majority of enrolled participants have been non-residents of Brooklyn Park.

- Commissioner Dillenburg asked if staff is re-evaluating the offering of childcare? Director Tullberg stated that certified staff and teachers would be a problem. It might be something that could be investigated for the future.
- Commissioner Erickson asked if staff was offering those families other options? Director Tullberg stated that was part of the notification.
- Commissioner Hoang stated it makes sense the program should serve Brooklyn Park residents. Director Tullberg stated that since it was subsidized it is important that the majority of enrollment be residents.

2. PARK PROJECTS UPDATE

No comments

3. 2022 RPAC AREA OF EMPHASIS REPORT

No comments

4. DIRECTORS REPORT

No comments

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. AMPLIFIED SOUND

Director Tullberg provided a summary on the background of amplified sound policy. Oak Grove Park is the designated location in the city for amplified sound and it is booked solid virtually every Friday/Saturday/Sunday throughout the summer. Also, a number of other parks have had parties with amplified sound even though it is not allowed. There is a group that is pushing the city to open all parks to amplified sound. With the way our park system is built with residential homes surrounding most of the parks it is not conducive to have amplified sound at every park.

Director Tullberg stated the purpose tonight was to have a discussion. He stated that staff has come up with the following discussion options;

- Continue with amplified sound as it is
- Form a task force to take another look at amplified sound locations
- Consider allowing additional locations for amplified sound with city provided speaker
- Consider checking out to decibel meters to users and require maintaining a level below pre-determined level.

Staff has contacted other cities for information on their policies. The result is no one has a policy. Everyone has the same language that City of Brooklyn Park has.

Questions/Comments:

- Commissioner Hoang asked if there was community survey done from those who live around the parks? Director Tullberg stated there was community engagement meetings.
- Commissioner Sandberg stated that she was not interested in a task force. She further stated that a pilot program at selected parks that have kitchen and shelter facilities only on selected days to a specific time in the evening.
- Commissioner Hoang asked what would be the additional parks? Commissioner Sandberg stated Central Park. Director Tullberg also suggested River Park.
- Commissioner Dillenburg asked where would they put the sound at Central Park? The shelter with the kitchen is closer to the houses which would be a problem. Parking for large gatherings should also be considered when deciding on a location.
- Commissioner Hoang who is the called for enforcement of the park ordinances, Police or Park and Rec? Director Tullberg stated that residents contact both. Commissioner Hoang stated with the lack of resources it is difficult to enforce. Director Tullberg stated that at Central Park there is music there all the time and people are willing to forfeit the damage deposit to have music at their gathering.
- Commissioner Dillenburg stated that she is concerned about police having to enforce a policy that is not enforceable if that will create more tension between police and the community. Director Tullberg stated that in the past we have had park workers trying to enforce the sound in parks, however, they received threats and would not engage, and they were scared. They had no authority.
- Commissioner Hoang asked if the price of the damage deposit is high enough to enforce it to make it hurt to lose. Director Tullberg stated the amount is \$300.
- Commissioner Osammor asked how do you prove that they broke it? Commissioner Hoang stated by complaints being logged. Commissioner Osammor stated that becomes a situation of "your word against mine" and how do you prove it. Director Tullberg stated that would be the challenge to manage as some people would feel it is too loud and others would say it is fine. Defining the balance and how to enforce it. A complaint might be regarding the type of music being played. You can't hold a deposit because of that.
- Director Tullberg stated that the policy with Oak Grove as the designated park was before all of the residential growth. Now with all the development he receives regularly complaints from those residents that it is louder than it should be.
- Commissioner Osammor asked if River Park allows sound? Director Tullberg stated currently it is only Oak Grove.
- Commissioner Osammor asked about staff being at a resident's event to monitor is not a good use of tax paying dollars. Director Tullberg stated it is also very uncomfortable for that staff person to be at a private party wearing a city staff shirt.

- Director Tullberg asked the Commission to give it some thought and to bring back to the June meeting thoughts and ideas. There is a policy that is basically ineffective and either must be changed or eliminated.
- Director Tullberg stated that Mississippi Gateway will be an option in 2025 with the band shelter.

2. OPEN FORUM – QUESTION AND ANSWERS

No comments

10. VERBAL REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – COUNCILMEMBER PARKS

Councilmember Parks stated the Council has been working on:

- Contracts
- Elections starting in June
- Budgets later in the summer

2. CITY PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATES – COMMISSIONER TURNHAM

No Report

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

No Report

4. RPAC COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Currently the RPAC Commission is down one person.

Youth on Board – there were no applications for RPAC.

5. KEY TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT RPAC MEETING – June 15, 2022

6. KEY DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

A. MAYOR STATE OF THE CITY – May 19, 2022 5:00p.m. CAC

B. BUS TOUR – July 20, 2022

C. JOINT COMMUNITY MEETING WITH POLICE – May 24, 2022 at BROOKDALE PARK

11. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion was made by Commissioner Erickson to close the meeting, second by Commissioner Dillenburg. Motion unanimously approved. Adjourned by Chairperson Nolen was at 8:07 P.M.

Attachments

4.01A 2022 RPAC Presentation

4.01B 6.2B Events Task Force Wrap Up Presentation

4.01C 6.2A Events Task Force Memo to Council 5.12.22

Submitted respectfully,

Jeanine Machan

Secretary