

**Wednesday, March 15, 2023  
Recreation & Parks Advisory Commission  
Minutes**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL - The Recreation & Parks Advisory Commission meeting was held at the Community Activity Center and was called to order by Chairperson Nolen at 6:02 P.M.**

**Commission Members present:**

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

**Commission Members absent:**

Councilmember XP Lee  
James Turnham, City Planning Liaison

**Brooklyn Park Staff present:**

Brad Tullberg, Director of Recreation and Parks  
Marcus Hill, Parks and Facilities Manager  
Greg Hoag, Parks and Buildings Manager, Operations and Maintenance  
Jeanine Machan, Administrative Assistant

New 2023 Commissioner Judy Purcell attended as a visitor.

- 2. OPEN FORUM-PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE  
NA**

- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**A Motion was made to Approve the March 15, 2023 agenda by Commissioner Dillenburg and second by, Commissioner Caldwell  
Motion unanimously approved.**

- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A Motion was made to Approve and Amend the February 15, 2023 minutes to mark Commission Dillenburg as absent by Commissioner Erickson and second by, Commissioner Dillenburg.  
Motion unanimously approved.**

- 5. ACTION ITEMS**

- 1. APPROVAL OF RPAC BYLAWS**

**A Motion was made to Approve the 2023 RPAC Bylaws by Commissioner Dillenburg and second by Commissioner Borer.  
Motion unanimously approved.**

## 6. GENERAL INFORMATION - PRESENTATIONS

### 1. PARKS AND FACILITIES UPDATE

Marcus Hill, Parks and Facilities Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation (attached) of the annual report regarding Special Use Facilities. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Edinburgh USA
- Brookland Golf Park
- Community Activity Center and improvements
- Ice Arenas
- Zanewood Recreation Center – Teen Center update
- Historic Eidem Farm
- Brooklyn Park Sports Dome
- Noble Baseball Field

#### Questions and Comments

- Commissioner Dillenburg commented on the issue of parking close to the door at Edinburgh USA.
- Commissioner Borer suggested adding music on a regular basis to drive community use of the Brooklyn restaurant.
- Commissioner Sandberg mentioned that there are new businesses in her area and suggested there is an opportunity to promote the Edinburgh facility to these new businesses and the people coming into the area.
- Commissioner Gomez asked if Brooklyn Park residents receive a golf discount? Director Tullberg responded that Edinburgh is an Enterprise Fund which means it operates as a business and is expected to bring in dollars to cover its own expenses and capital improvements and replacements with no funding by tax support dollars. Edinburgh does have a published resident daily rate, but it does not apply to golf round packages or St. Andrews Club membership. Brookland does receive tax dollars to support its operation and offers discounts to residents.
- Commissioner Osammor asked how often the CAC is rented for weddings? Manager Hill responded that current bookings for Saturday and Sunday go through 2024.
- Commissioner Borer asked if the concessions stand on the 2<sup>nd</sup> level will remain at the CAC? Manager Hill responded yes.
- Commissioner Hoang asked if the redevelopment concept for the CAC was still the same as what the Commission has seen? Manager Hill said there have been some changes and those will be presented at an upcoming meeting.
- Commissioner Dillenburg asked why local school leagues are not able to rent one of our sheets of ice? She has received complaints they are driving outside of the city to rent. Director Tullberg stated that the ice is marketed for rental just like other ice arenas so more information would be needed such as specifics on requests. It may be that other organizations are renting at that time.
- Commissioner Borer asked if the numbers of revenue of room rentals at the CAC for 2022 is comparable to pre-pandemic? Director Tullberg stated that the driving force in increase in room rental is the open catering policy that went into effect May of 2019.
- Commissioner Osammor asked if renters at the CAC need to use certain vendors for liquor? Director Tullberg stated that if the vendor has a liquor license in the City of Brooklyn Park they can be hired for events at the CAC.
- Commissioner Lande asked if any covered space at the Historic Eidem Farm was being considered? Manager Hill stated that it was discussed but the other improvements that were decided on were more important to the function of the space.
- Commissioner Borer asked if more animals were being added. Manager Hill stated that the goats would be back and there is discussion on adding more animals.
- Commissioner Lande asked what is the anticipated finish date for the Hometown Ball Field (HTBF)? Director Tullberg stated that depending on weather the goal is June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Commissioner Lande asked if there would be a Grand Opening at the HTBF? Director Tullberg stated that there will be some event.
- Commissioner Borer suggested having food trucks at the HTBF to eliminate people bringing in their own grills and music. Director Tullberg stated that with groups such as soccer teams, it is part of the experience of the participants to grill out while watching.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

1. RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION 2022 YEAR-IN-REVIEW AND 2023 WORK PLAN
2. PARK PROJECTS UPDATE

Director Tullberg stated that Chairperson Nolen did a great job with the RPAC presentation to City Council.

Director Tullberg informed the commission that at the February 27 City Council meeting a group of residents presented a petition to stop the work at the Mississippi Gateway Environmental Nature Area which is the west side owned by the city. This resulted in the March 6, 2023 City Council Work Session, where Director Tullberg provided an update to the Council regarding the Park Projects:

- Mississippi Gateway Regional Park
- Park Bond Reinvestment Projects
  - Youth and Teen Recreation Center
  - Community Activity Center Improvements
  - Senior Center

This was done to give all the new council members an overview of the Park Bond Referendum.

## **8. WRITTEN REPORTS**

1. PROGRAM AND EVENTS UPDATE
2. LIST OF EVENTS
3. PARK PROJECTS UPDATE
4. DIRECTORS REPORT

Director Tullberg made special mention of the Adaptive Resource Fair led by Erin Bonikowske, Program Specialist for Inclusion Services.

Manager Hoag stated the City Council has approved the contract with Rainbow Tree for Emerald Ash Borer treatment for city residents.

Manager Hoag also mentioned the Arbor Day Tree Sale is underway and trees are selling fast.

Director Tullberg called out on the Directors Report the senior programming and charging of fees and the grant work that staff is working on.

## **9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. OPEN FORUM – QUESTION AND ANSWERS

Commissioner Erickson proposed an idea of the group taking walks once a month on a Saturday. The benefits would be to get to know our parks better and to get to know each other better.

Director Tullberg stated that other cities have programs “get to know your parks”. He stated that it would need to be posted as a possible quorum of the Commission. He further stated it could be a way to do a park cleanup.

Commissioner Gomez stated that he would be in favor. Commissioner Caldwell also stated she would be in favor. Commissioner Borer would be in favor and would bring her dog.

Director Tullberg stated he will research the idea and bring it back to the Commission.

Commissioner Borer asked about the dome by the Fleet Farm? Director Tullberg stated it is a private enterprise that has pickle ball.

Commissioner Dillenburg stated the Skate Show is April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

1. CITY COUNCIL UPDATE –
2. CITY PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATES –
3. KEY TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT RPAC MEETING

Chairperson Nolen stated in April we will have new commissioners on RPAC. He thanked the outgoing Commissioners Borer, Sandberg and Dillenburg for their service to RPAC. They will be missed. Chairperson Nolen stated that Commissioner Dillenburg was instrumental in Park Bond Referendum and chaired the Trust for Public Land.

- APRIL 19 - TOUR OF O&M
- MAY 17 – RECREATION PROGRAMMING UPDATE

4. KEY DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

- APRIL 6 - CITY COUNCIL/COMMISSIONER ORIENTATION CITY HALL

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**A Motion was made by Commissioner Erickson to close the meeting, second by Commissioner Dillenburg.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

**Adjourned by Chairperson Nolen at 8:04**

Submitted respectfully,  
Jeanine Machan  
Secretary