

**Wednesday, October 18, 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 Vice Chairperson Erickson at 6:01 P.M.**
  - Commissioner Mercy Matthews was introduced and took the oath of office.

**Commission Members present:**

Dwain Erickson, West (Vice Chair)  
Latrina Caldwell, At-large  
Joe Gomez, At-large  
Mercy Matthews, West  
Taylor Murray, East  
Miriam Osammor, East  
Judy Purcell, Central  
Kellina Quigley, At-large

**Youth Liaisons:**

Aria Reickard

Councilmember XP Lee

**Commission Members absent:**

Mark Nolen, At-large (Chair)  
Tawah Crawford, At-large  
Deborah Lande, Central  
Terry Parks, At-large  
Klarissa Yu – Youth Liaison

**Brooklyn Park Staff present:**

Brad Tullberg, Director of Recreation and Parks  
Jen Gillard, Recreation Manager  
Greg Hoag, Parks and Buildings Maintenance Manager  
Pam McBride, Youth Services Manager  
Jeanine Machan, Administrative Assistant

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

Reva Chamblis, 3108 94<sup>th</sup> Ave N, Brooklyn Park spoke in favor of CAC court conversion.  
Tekoa Cochran, 7344 Zenith Ave N, Brooklyn Park spoke in favor of CAC court conversion.  
Collette Guyott-Hempel, 9277 Trinity Gardens, Brooklyn Park spoke in favor of equal facilities as well as additional facilities for swimming, basketball pickleball.  
Cynthia Hill, 9000 Telford Crossing, Brooklyn Park spoke in favor of CAC court conversion.  
Tony Reed, 8860 Jersey Ave N, Brooklyn Park spoke in favor of CAC court conversion.

- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**A Motion was made to Approve the October 18,2023 agenda by Commissioner Gomez and second by Commissioner Murray.  
Motion unanimously approved.**

- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A Motion was made to Approve the September 20,2023 minutes by Commissioner Purcell and second by Commissioner Gomez.  
Motion unanimously approved.**

## 5. ACTION ITEMS

N/A

## 6. GENERAL INFORMATION - PRESENTATIONS

### 1. RECREATION PROGRAMMING SUMMER RECAP

Director Tullberg introduced Recreation Services Manager Jen Gillard and Youth Services Manager Pam McBride. They provided a PowerPoint presentation (attached) of the summer 2023 recreation programming recap.

#### Questions/Comments

- Commissioner Gomez stated he was glad Latino Fest was a success.
- Vice-Chair Erickson asked about the issue staff had with the pool construction, when construction is complete does it open up more programming opportunities with the additional venue? Manager Gillard stated that the city was not going to pick up any additional venues but is planning on adding additional programming nights and extend Saturday hours at the usual locations.
- Commissioner Gomez stated that the MN Twins was the best attended of the Family Fun Day/Field Trips. Manager McBride stated that the kids love the Twins.
- Commissioner Murray asked what was an example of a day trip? Manager Gillard gave examples of Spam Museum, cranberry fields in Wisconsin, theater trips, wineries, and Glensheen Mansion in Duluth.
- Commissioner Osammor asked what is preventing taking the kids on field trips? YMCA has a program for day trips. Manager Gillard responded that it is expensive and complicated to take kids on field trips. We already have a highly subsidized summer camp program paying the camp staff what they are worth. To take all of the summer camp would require 8 – 9 buses with campers and staff at approximately \$250/hour plus admission to any location. Because the YMCA is such a large organization, they have the ability to offset the cost of some of their programs.
- Commissioner Gomez commented that he appreciates all the work done by the staff for programming and asked about the basketball camp ages. Manager Gillard responded it is 5 -7 and 7 – 12. The Park Center Basketball Coach sets up the program and enlists his high school team to help. It is a contract program that we run with him. Gomez stated that he likes the mentorship with the high school students and would like to see more of this with other sports such as baseball.
- Vice-Chair Erickson noted the number of participants in the tennis program and would like to see this expand, possibly using the same type of program of partnering with the high school. Manager Gillard stated that the city's summer tennis coach is the Park Center tennis coach. Staff is looking to grow this program by possibly getting pro staff or partnering with other cities tennis programs with contacts. Erickson stated it is hard to have all the programs to be "great".
- Commissioner Osammor asked which parks does the Rec-on-the-Go? Manager McBride stated that she would have to confirm exactly which ones, but that ROTG is at parks that do not have buildings. Manager Gillard stated that the Communications staff is working on better ways to get the word out about these kinds of programming. Osammor asked about the Health-on-the-Go locations? Manager Gillard stated HOTG is run by the Community Engagement Department. Osammor stated she didn't know that we had a HOTG until she saw it at the Brooklyn Center Health Fair.
- Councilmember Lee stated that HOTG is in partnership with Brooklyn Center.
- Commissioner Osammor stated that she used to look forward to Tater Daze parade with the marching bands and asked what staff is doing to bring it back? Manager Gillard stated that there are many challenges, one being the marching band community has changed. The Champlin Park band is going to festivals, parades and competitions that have prizes and awards, so they are not interested in parades

such as Tater Daze. The Osseo, Park Center, Maple Grove bands went away. They are starting to bring those programs back. Staff are working to see if they will attend as well as when it is scheduled to see if other dates or times of day might work better.

- Commissioner Murray asked if last year it was scheduled during a large band competition that might have kept bands away. Manager Gillard stated that she would have to check but that if Tater Daze was moved to the original weekend it used to be, it would fall on Juneteenth.
- Commissioner Osammor asked about the BIPOC community and stated that in her West Africa community the seniors live with family and asked if staff have a way of talking to them? Manager Gillard stated that staff originally started to work with ACER. Unfortunately, there were staffing changes at ACER so that option fell apart. Next staff was working with St. Alphonsus Pan-African network. The strategy is trying to find people where they are. Staff are looking for community liaisons that can help contact the different cultural communities.
- Youth Liaison Reickard asked if the Rec-On-The-Go was free and a sign-up based program? Manager McBride stated that it is a free program, and it is a sign-up through RecTrac. Reickard stated that she knows a couple of kids in her neighborhood that are bored a lot during the summer.
- Vice-Chair Erickson stated that it sounds like at just about all the parks there is something going on in the summer, and asked if there were any parks that do not have events or programming. Director Tullberg stated that yes, with the 60 parks, there is some that are not host for any events and are still “just neighborhood” parks.
- Commissioner Osammor stated that at the Back-to-School BBQ there is no place to park and long lines and asked if staff has considered 2 different locations to accommodate the crowd? Commissioner Gomez asked if everything, food and backpacks, at the BTSB was donated. Manager Gillard stated that Honored 2 Help works to get all the donations and the Rec and Park staff provide the logistics. Director Tullberg stated that in our park system we lack the space to hold such an event, that has the parking and infrastructure. One of the components of the CAC redesign is to create the space for such an event.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

7.1 4.3 RFCA Authorizing Application for HC Youth Activities Grant – CC Meeting October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

7.2 4.4 Approve Edinburgh CEP Budget Amendment for Equipment Purchase – CC Meeting October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Director Tullberg gave an overview of the business taken to City Council.

## **8. WRITTEN REPORTS**

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

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

Manager Hoag stated that the City Council approved the EAB grant through Hennepin County. There is still a DNR grant that is a possibility.

Also a portion of the Jefferson Highway Trail mill and overlay will take place in the next two weeks.

### **3. DIRECTORS REPORT**

Director Tullberg highlighted the Teen Center grant requests.

Also, the City Council approved the demo of the old library which is the future site of the new fire station.

## **9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

Commissioner Purcell asked if City Council had acted on the recommendation from RPAC on Cannabis?

Director Tullberg stated the City Council has discussed Cannabis a couple of times and it is on the agenda

again October 30 Work Session. The RPAC recommendation has been presented to the Council. There is also discussion with the City Attorney around the sale as people are setting up shops in the parks. The fine is low which does not deter the action of selling in the parks. At the upcoming Work Session there will be experts on Cannabis to give information and answer questions from the Council. Councilmember Lee stated it is the number one public safety concern before the Council.

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

### **1. CITY COUNCIL UPDATE –**

Councilmember XP Lee highlighted

- the bike ride taken by some of the directors and city council on the ped trails to observe the lanes and discuss future plans. Director Tullberg stated the ride was an opportunity for members of city council to see the differences in the ped trails; on street bike lanes, 10 ft bituminous and sidewalk trails. The Hartkopf neighborhood is an area that the city is concentrating on for “Safe Routes to School” grants since it generally does not have sidewalks and the kids are often walking on streets to get to school. Lee added that the ped trails work is also being considered as connections to the Blue Line.
- The development moratorium is coming to an end and City Council is looking for ways to develop the northwest quadrant of the city. Director Tullberg stated that there will be the need for at least 1 or possibly 2 parks in the area. Vice-chair Erickson asked if the development in the area will happen regardless of the Blue Line. Councilmember Lee stated that it will likely, however, it will be more favorable if the Blue Line comes through. The market is tougher for building mixed use properties but with the Blue Line would make it more enticing to developers.

### **2. KEY TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT RPAC MEETING**

- NOVEMBER 15th – BUDGET AND PARK BOND UPDATES
- DECEMBER – NO MEETING
- JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> – ELECTIONS CHAIRPERSON / VICE CHAIR

### **3. KEY DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS**

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**A Motion was made by Commissioner Gomez to close the meeting, second by Commissioner Osammor.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

**Adjourned by Vice Chairperson Erickson at 8:17 P.M.**

Submitted respectfully,  
Jeanine Machan  
Secretary

### **Attachment**

4.1 6.1 Summer Programs and Services Update 2023