

Wednesday, April 17, 2024
Recreation & Parks Advisory Commission
Minutes

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL - The Recreation & Parks Advisory Commission meeting was held at Community Activity Center and was called to order by Chairperson Erickson at 6:01 PM**

New Commissioners:

The new Commissioners Doug Crandall and Joshua Uloth were sworn in by Chairperson Erickson prior to Roll Call.

Director Tullberg stated that Councilmember Morson has been censored and removed as liaison between City Council and RPAC.

Director Tullberg asked the commissioners, that since we had new members, during rollcall they state their full name and why they joined RPAC.

Commission Members present:

Dwain Erickson, Chairperson
Joe Gomez, Vice-Chair
Latrina Caldwell, At-large
Doug Crandall, At-large
Deborah Lande, Central
Taylor Murray, East
Miriam Osammor, East
Terry Parks, At-large
Judy Purcell, Central
Joshua Uloth, West

Youth Liaisons:

Aria Reickard

Commission Members absent:

Mercy Matthews, West
Kellina Quigley, At-large
Klarissa Yu

Brooklyn Park Staff present:

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

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

N/A

- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A Motion was made to Approve the April 17, 2024 agenda by Commissioner Parks and second by Commissioner Uloth.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A Motion was made to Approve the March 20, 2024 minutes by Commissioner Purcell and second by Commissioner Caldwell.

Motion unanimously approved.

- 5. ACTION ITEMS**

ANNUAL DEER HUNT

Director Tullberg provided the background for the annual deer hunt. The PowerPoint presentation is attached.

Questions/Comments:

Commissioner Parks noted that in the years of 2013 – 2015 there were quite a lot of deer harvested. Director Tullberg agreed. He pointed out that different zones have dropped out due to push back by the residents.

Commissioner Crandall asked if there have been any reports of the deer having disease? Director Tullberg stated that the staff does not have that information. He noted that the hunters keep the deer that they harvest, and the city is not necessarily included in those details.

Commissioner Crandall asked how many hunters are hunting at one time in a zone? Director Tullberg stated he does not have the exact numbers, but it is limited to accommodate the size of the area of the hunt.

Commissioner Purcell asked when the Mississippi Gateway Regional Park will be available again for a deer hunt? Director Tullberg stated that the park redevelopment should be done sometime between 2025 – 2026 so staff expect it will be available in 2026. The question will be will there still be areas that will be available without having to shut down the park.

Commissioner Purcell asked if Willowstone or River Park be an option or are they too narrow? Director Tullberg stated that the hunts are not conducted in the parks themselves but in the natural areas surrounding the parks. The proximity of how close the homes are to the areas is a factor to determine if there is safely enough space.

Commissioners Caldwell mentioned that at 84th and Xerxes where her mother lives, her mother feeds the deer. Director Tullberg stated that the number one reason for overpopulation of deer is due to people feeding them.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Gomez, SECOND Commissioner Uloth, TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE THE 2024 DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH THE METRO BOWHUNTERS RESOURCE BASE TO CONDUCT THE 2024 HUNT. Motion unanimously approved.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION - PRESENTATIONS

1. PROGRAM AND EVENT TRANSPORTATION

Recreation Programming Manager Jen Gillard provided a PowerPoint presentation on the preliminary research that staff has done regarding the RPAC workplan item of Program and Event Transportation. The research done so far has been only at a high level. Once it is known the direction that RPAC would like to go, more detailed work will be done by staff. See attached PP.

Questions/Comments:

Commissioner Lande asked how the Elder Micro Transit system option compared to the Plymouth Metrolink Click and Ride. Manager Gillard stated that staff did not review the Plymouth Metro. The service that was researched was the Maple Grove My Ride and this option is rip off of that.

Commissioner Erickson asked if the relationship with the user was between City of Brooklyn Park or with the Transit Team so in the case if someone was hurt while in transit who would the individual work with?

Manager Gillard stated that all of those details would be worked out within the contract agreement with the transit group the city partners with.

Commissioner Gomez asked if there had been any cost analysis done along with a determination of where this would come from within the city budget? Manager Gillard stated we are only at the beginning stages of showing options and will be asking RPAC for recommendations of which option to proceed with on more project planning and development of specific details.

Commissioner Uloth asked if the Blue Line is part of the consideration? Manager Gillard stated that the Blue Line would fall under mass transit and staff would focus on micro transit that would be tailored to the needs of the users.

Commissioner Lande stated that she thinks of Rec on The Go and this discussion is more along the lines of bringing the “people to the Rec”. Is this in addition to or looking as a replacement to Rec on The Go?

Manager Gillard stated this was not taking the place of Rec on The Go. A consideration has been on how to provide Rec on The Go to the elderly. Issues to consider is they would not necessarily participate in outdoor activities. More indoor activities would require space at the location where they live. Such space does not generally exist.

Commissioner Lande asked how the system would be used by the community in the broader sense of transportation not just for recreation which would not be this group? Manager Gillard agreed that would fall under the category of mass transit which would not be operated by this staff.

Commissioner Caldwell liked the ideas presented but stated that discussion is needed. She stated that the option for youth to be transported to different venues within the city was most appealing.

Commissioner Crandell asked about the elderly in their homes? Manager Gillard stated that right now the staff is only at the preliminary stage of exploration.

Commissioner Caldwell stated that the elderly also have Metro Mobility. Manager Gillard stated that there are challenges with Metro Mobility and stipulations of having a disability to be able to use it. There are also wait times involved.

Commissioner Caldwell mentioned that whichever option of selected it may mean more jobs in the community.

Commissioner Purcell stated that what stood out was the cost is so high. Conceptually it is a great idea getting the elderly and youth to different locations, however it seems so big and expensive.

Commissioner Erickson stated that it was presented that a couple of these services were tried for a while and then they failed. Do we know why they failed. Manager Gillard stated these were services that a couple of staff had been involved with and had inside knowledge. The service that was governed by the 5 Cities Transportation for the elders was in jeopardy when the local government aid money went away and the cities involved were not able to sustain the program. The youth transportation service folded when it was taken up by the Minneapolis Park Board who did not have the budget to maintain.

Commissioner Gomez stated that he appreciated the work of the staff. His concern is the cost and what is realistic. Questions to be answered are how to fund and how to sustain.

Commissioner Osammor stated a concern of do we have enough programs and activities for the youth available to account for the cost in transportation.

Commissioner Lande asked if there are existing mass transits that the city can jump on board with free bus cards given out to youth and elderly. As far as priorities are concerned since the city is investing millions of dollars in Zanewood she would like to see an emphasis placed on getting the youth to that location. Putting a system in place that will be operational in two years when the facility is open.

Commissioner Parks stated that cost is the primary concern. RPAC can discuss and staff can plan but when it goes before the City Council they will not approve.

Commissioner Parks stated that what stood out was the circular bus model seemed to be the best option. He also stated that the stakeholders need to be identified.

Commissioner Uloth is possible to have a partnership with Maple Grove transit? Manager Gillard stated that the Maple Grove program was used as a possible model, but that Recreation and Parks Staff have not reached out as representatives for the whole city to discuss a partnership.

Commissioner Uloth stated that it might be a good option to minimize some of the costs of a program to explore that partnership.

Director Tullberg stated that tonight was open discussion for staff to hear from RPAC and reiterated that none of the options have been fully vetted yet. He thanked Manager Gillard for the presentation. Director Tullberg acknowledged the concerns over budget and sustainability. He stated more discussions will be scheduled in the future.

2. TEEN CENTER

Manager of Parks and Facilities Marcus Hill provided an update on Teen Center project. PowerPoint is attached.

Questions and Comments:

Commissioner Erickson asked how staff will monitor the commons area doesn't become a hangout area?

Manager Hill stated that is what staff hope the commons area will be. The challenge now is that they are confined to a "room". It is better if they are hanging out in a safe space with a programming area, than on the street.

Youth Liaison Reickard asked about the front door on the new addition vs the front door on the existing facility. Manager Hill replied that the existing front door will be an exit only.

Youth Liaison Reickard stated that there are different ages that like to play chess and asked how the crossover of ages would be handled with the two different facilities?. Manager Hill stated that the multi-purpose room can be used for overlap programming.

Commissioner Parks asked about the fencing for Huntington if there has been discussion about an opening for youth from Huntington to have easier access to Zanewood? Director Tullberg stated the gate is supposed to be open during the day. It is on a timer.

Commissioner Uloth asked if there is a slide of what the facility looks like now? Manager Hill stated that he has a slide he can share and offered to provide a tour.

Commissioner Lande asked how much of the existing equipment will be reused? Manager Hill stated that there are computers that will be reused. The Tech Center will have brand new equipment as part of the Best Buy grant.

Commissioner Lande encouraged grouping the seating and mobile furniture that the youth can use.

Manager Hill stated that the staff is now entering the furniture discussion phase.

Commissioner Erickson asked about monitoring the outside of the facility. Manager Hill stated there will be cameras and Zanewood staff also do periodical walk abouts. If there are youth outside of the facility at the basketball courts, there will be staff outside as well. Programming will also facilitate the monitoring of all areas. Also, it is a public park nearby so all ages are welcome.

Youth Liaison Reickard asked about the timeline for completion of the facility? Manager Hill said it is expected to be about a year of construction.

Commissioner Gomez provided feedback that the programming of Cops and Kids is fantastic. Once this building is in place that kind of programming can grow.

Commissioner Parks asked about the legality privacy aspect of kid's names / address / photo gathering and on file? Manager Hill stated that it is for security and safety concerns.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- 7.1 4.9 Approve Professional Services Agreement with Design by Melo for Construction Document Development
- 7.2 7.1 2024 State Bonding Project Support

8. WRITTEN REPORTS

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

Director Tullberg provided information about the shooting that occurred at Willowstone park on April 6th.

Director Tullberg, Manager Hill and other city staff have met with residents in the area on April 10th and the following changes were discussed: improve lighting outdoors, boulders to control traffic into the park and park rentals that end at 9pm and cleaned up and out by 10pm.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. OPEN FORUM – QUESTION AND ANSWERS
N/A

10. VERBAL REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. CITY COUNCIL UPDATE - No Report
2. CITY HALL ENHANCEMENT TASK FORCE – Chairperson Erickson and Commissioner Matthews
Chairperson Erickson stated they have met, and it was decided the artwork would move around twice a year. Residents will be allowed to display.
3. COMMUNITY GOALS STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE - Commissioner Parks
Commissioner Parks stated they have had two meetings so far. The last meeting discussed the stakeholders.
4. KEY TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT RPAC MEETING
 - MAY 15 – 5:30 Tour Operations and Maintenance. Meeting will start at 6:00

- JUNE – NO MEETING

5. KEY DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion was made by Commissioner Purcell to close the meeting, second by Commissioner Caldwell.

Motion unanimously approved.

Adjourned by Chairperson Erickson at 8:06 PM

Submitted respectfully,
Jeanine Machan
Secretary

Attachments:

4.1 5.1 2024 Deer Management PowerPoint

4.2 6.1 Transportation Options PowerPoint

4.3 6.2 Teen Center RPAC PowerPoint