



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

October 04, 2021

7:00 PM

**Fridley Civic Campus - 7071 University Avenue
N.E.**

AGENDA

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- [1.](#) September 7, 2021 Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

New Business

- [2.](#) Introduction to Springbrook Nature Center Manager, Tara Rogness – Commission Q and A
- [3.](#) Pumpkin Night in the Park History, 2021 Event Update, and Discussion
- [4.](#) Park System Improvement Plan Task Force Progress Update and Discussion

Old Business

Staff Reports

- [5.](#) Park Maintenance and Construction Report
- [6.](#) Fridley Parks and Recreation Division Report
- [7.](#) Springbrook Nature Center Report

Adjournment



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 4, 2021

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Community Services Director

Title

September 7, 2021 Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

Background

Attached are the meeting minutes of the September 7, 2021 Parks and Recreation Commission.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

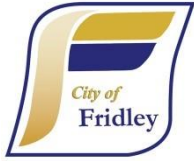
Staff recommend the approval of the September 7, 2021 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.

Attachments and Other Resources

- September 7, 2021 Parks and Recreation Minutes.

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
 Fridley Municipal Center
 7071 University Ave NE, Fridley MN 55432

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Heinz called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mike Heintz, Peter Borman, Ryan Gerhard, and Shanna Larson

Members Absent: EB Graham and Dave Kondrick

Others Present: Mike Maher, Community Services Director

2. APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

MOTION by Commissioner Larson to APPROVE the September 7, 2021 meeting agenda. SECONDED by Commissioner Borman. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

3. APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES FOR June 7, 2021

MOTION by Commissioner Larson to APPROVE the June 7, 2021 meeting minutes. SECONDED by Commissioner Borman. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

4. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS:

a. Start, Stop, Continue Exercise Results Discussion

Community Services Director Maher stated that the Commission met in worksession in August in order to discuss the role and direction for the Commission. He stated that he drafted a summary of that discussion and welcomed any additional action items or changes the Commission would like to make.

There were no additional comments from the Commission.

b. Program, Service and Fee Review

Community Services Director Maher stated that one document was from City staff and the other from Springbrook Nature Center related to the current fees for programming and services and to show the diversity in programming. He stated that over the next several months the Commission will discuss programming and therefore he wanted to present this opportunity for the group to review the fees. He noted that a list of 2022 fees would be brought forward in the future for review. He welcomed any input on fee adjustments the Commission may have.

Chair Heintz referenced the K-4 youth programs and asked if those are daytime or evening activities.

Mr. Maher stated that those programs would be youth instructional activities and would be held after school or in the evening. He stated that it is his understanding that these activities are non-competitive formats focused on skills.

Commissioner Larson referenced the park shelter rentals and asked if there have been any instances where a security deposit had to be kept. She stated that the deposit is only \$50 for a shelter that supports 150 people, and most likely if someone is hosting 150 people the \$50 would not be an impactful amount to encourage good behavior. She commented that perhaps a higher deposit should be required to encourage better behavior.

Mr. Maher commented that it is his understanding that the actual holding of a security deposit is extremely rare. He stated that most of the park shelter rentals would have a key checked out and park staff would go in at the end of the day or next day to complete cleanup. He stated that it would be difficult to attribute damage to the facility unless it is very obvious. He explained that the park shelter structures are sturdy and simple, therefore the risk of damage is minimal. He stated that if the Commission would like staff to present updates or review the fees, that could be done.

Chair Heintz used the example of a volleyball net being put up and a water line is damaged and asked if the renter would be liable for that.

Mr. Maher stated that there are instances such as the use of a bounce house that requires stakes to be driven and, in those instances, a Special Use Permit is required which has a higher charge.

Commissioner Larson commented that staff does a good job in comparing pricing to other cities in order to remain competitive and therefore feels comfortable with the fees.

Commissioner Borman asked and received confirmation that the fees included in the packet are the current fees.

Mr. Maher replied that these are current fees. He stated that if the Commission has suggestions for fee adjustments, staff could do that as they begin to plan for programming and events for 2022. He also encouraged the Commission to review the list of programs and services as they plan for the next year.

Chair Heintz stated that staff does a great job of offering opportunities and variety at every age.

Commissioner Larson agreed that the City makes an effort to provide opportunities for everyone.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None

6. STAFF REPORTS

a. Springbrook Nature Center

Community Services Director Maher stated that a new staff member was welcomed to the Springbrook team and reviewed the experience of the employee and duties they will handle. He provided an overview of the Springbrook Day Camp program that has wrapped up, noting that 45 camp experiences were provided at full scholarships by the foundation for campers with financial need. He noted that three summer concerts were held at the Nature Center and the concerts in general were a great success. He stated that they are working to get the school partnerships back online with the Nature Center. He stated that the biggest event of the year is coming up on Saturday, October 23rd from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., noting that tickets will be limited and should be purchased ahead of time. He noted that pumpkin carving begins the previous week at no cost and interested participants can register on the website. The Nature Center received a grant from Xcel Energy in the amount of \$7,500 to partially fund a new exhibit called "Becoming a Bird Watcher".

b. Parks and Recreation Update

Community Services Director Maher stated that a breakdown of enrollments was included in the report and provided a summary. He stated that the summer concert series was expanded to the Fridley Civic Campus and Commons Park this year and good feedback was received from the community. He advised that a summary of shelter rentals was also included, noting that it was a busy summer for shelter rentals. He stated that rec and roll was a free program that took place in a number of the parks this summer and was able to reach a large number of youth and families.

Chair Heintz asked if the event is advertised ahead of time.

Mr. Maher replied that staff established a regular rotation between five different parks once per week so that those in the neighborhood could expect that regular schedule.

Chair Heintz stated that if the program is going to continue in 2022, perhaps there would be a way to notify people of the event.

Mr. Maher advised of the different methods of advertising staff used to get the word out. He noted that they also collaborated with the School District to provide free meals.

Commissioner Larson commented that in the past she received an email that provided a programming suggestion based on a past registration. She asked if that was a trial option when the City purchased the software or why the City did not continue to use that feature. She believed that feature would help to advertise potential programs to residents.

Mr. Maher stated that Fridley Recreation just launched a new e-newsletter that will be sent out on a monthly basis to everyone in the registration system and will highlight new programming opportunities. He did not believe that the system has the capacity to send an automated email option for similar programming. He stated that perhaps in the past a staff member sent targeted emails in attempt to fill the class. He noted that while that can be effective, it can also be quite time consuming.

c. Park Maintenance and Construction Report

Community Services Director Maher provided an overview of the report that was provided by staff. He noted that staffing shortage that caused some projects to not be completed.

Commissioner Borman asked for clarification on the location of Civic West.

Mr. Maher provided additional clarification on the location.

Commissioner Borman asked if there are any plans for that area that have been finalized.

Mr. Maher commented that funding has been identified to do some of the basics such as trails and seeding. He stated that there is a list of pending items that could be completed once a funding source is identified. He stated that the future amenities were included in an article in the most recent City newsletter.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Larson made the MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m., SECONDED by Commissioner Borman. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Staple
Recording Secretary



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 4, 2021

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Community Services Director

Title

Introduction to Springbrook Nature Center Manager, Tara Rogness – Commission Q and A

Background

Tara Rogness was promoted to Springbrook Nature Center Manager in May of 2021. Ms. Rogness will be introduced to the Commission and be present to answer questions.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

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Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 4, 2021

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Director of Community Services

Title

Pumpkin Night in the Park History, 2021 Event Update, and Discussion

Background

Springbrook Nature Center's largest event, Pumpkin Night in the Park, will occur on October 23, 2021.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

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Vision Statement

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AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 4, 2021

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Director of Community Services

Title

Park System Improvement Plan Task Force Progress Update and Discussion

Background

Discussion and update of the following Park System Improvement Plan Meetings:

1. Public Finance Advisory Committee
 - a. Meeting dates: August 10, 2021 and August 24, 2021
2. Refinement Advisory Committee
 - a. Meeting dates: August 12, 2021 and September 9, 2021

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Public Finance Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes August 10, 2021
- Public Finance Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes August 24, 2021
- Refinement Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes August 12, 2021
- Refinement Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes September 9, 2021

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



PARK SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PLAN PUBLIC FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 10, 2021

7:00 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue N.E.

MINUTES

Members Present: Scott Brinkhaus, Steve Schmit, Rachel Schwankl, Walter Smith, Alesia Thompson, Lee Pao Xiong

Members Absent: Ron Ackerman and Warren Stock

Others Present: Daniel Tienter, Finance Director/City Treasurer/City Clerk

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Tienter, Staff Liaison, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Mr. Tienter explained the meeting started late as the group waited for some absent Committee Members.

2. Icebreaker Activity

Mr. Tienter led the group in an introduction and icebreaker activity. Those present introduced themselves, provided some information on their favorite park within the City and stated why they were interested in joining the Committee.

3. Meeting Guidelines

Mr. Tienter reviewed the meeting guidelines and expectations of committee members. He noted the main expectations from the Committee and Staff Liaison are:

- a. Actively test assumptions and positions of each other and themselves;
- b. Ask genuine questions and make honest statements;
- c. Focus on the interest of the community;
- d. Keep the meetings on track;
- e. Take care of their personal needs;
- f. Any questions or concerns will be brought forward and addressed;
- g. Ensure the meetings are steered by the committee members; and
- h. Keep the meetings under 90 minutes.

4. Public Finance Advisory Committee Charter

Mr. Tienter reviewed the Committee charter and mission, which outlines the framework of the group's work, the structure of meetings and the role of the Committee in the overall Park System Improvement Plan (Plan). He reiterated that this is an advisory committee tasked with making a recommendation to the City Council.

5. Park System Improvement Plan Background and Overview

Mr. Tienter provided a presentation and overview of the Fridley Park System, previous improvements made and, current conditions. He provided an overview of what the residents identified as the priorities for the park system plans:

- a. Safe connected parks and trails;
- b. Nature access; and
- c. Flexible gathering spaces and facilities.

Mr. Tienter elaborated on factors the Committee will be asked to take into consideration through this process are to build on vibrancy, maintain and expand on safety and stewardship, make parks for people in all different stages of their lives and, how to build the recreation department around the amenities they create.

6. Other Items

Mr. Tienter provided the Committee with an overview of financing options the City can use for this Plan. He reviewed the budget of \$30 million and time frame of 10 years that is expected for completion of this project, as set by the City Council.

There was discussion among the committee members regarding the bonds and what they will be expected to act on for the next meeting.

7. Future Meeting Schedule

Mr. Tienter reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for the Committee. He stated they can move meetings as needed down the line, noting they will need to make changes to the schedule five or more days ahead of time so the public can be informed pursuant to public notice requirements and direction of the City Council.

The Committee Members discussed the proposed schedule, as presented, and agreed that it would work.

8. Open Forum

Committee Member Schwankl asked for clarification on what is expected of them at the next meeting. Mr. Tienter stated the biggest thing they will be asked to recommend is the bond financing. He stated they can recommend the type of bond, the sizing of the bond, how much of the budget should come from internal resources, how much should come from fundraising or donations and, the manner in

which any fundraising occurs. He reiterated they only set perimeters are the 10 years, \$30 million budget, otherwise noted any ideas or thoughts they have can be put on the table.

Mr. Tienter stated the next meeting is on August 24, 2021 and thanked the Committee Members for their time. He stated they will receive an agenda for the next meeting prior to it and noted if they have any questions beforehand to feel free to contact him.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michaela Daniels, Recording Secretary



PARK SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PLAN PUBLIC FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 24, 2021

6:00 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue N.E.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Staff Liaison Daniel Tienter.

Members Present: Scott Brinkhaus, Ron Ackerman, Rachel Schwankl, Walter Smith, Alesia Thompson, Lee Pao Xiong (remote), Steve Schmit (arrived at 6:28 p.m.)

Members Absent: Warren Stock

Others Present: Daniel Tienter, Staff Liaison

OLD BUSINESS

1. Information Requested by the Public Finance Advisory Committee

Mr. Tienter reviewed the information provided to the Committee in their packets. He stated there is an overview of donations the City received from the past few years, a map of the City parks, and an audit of the City financials. He noted if anyone would like a paper version of anything to let him know.

The Committee Members each provided a brief introduction about themselves and why they were interested in serving on the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Municipal Budgeting Overview

Mr. Tienter stated the goal of the first two meetings is to ensure everyone is operating with the same amount of knowledge and information. He stated the following meetings will be focused on municipal finances and in-depth discussions to create a plan.

Mr. Tienter reviewed the City Charter (Charter) which outlines the Budget Process. He stated there are three separate volumes:

- a. Volume No. 1: Budget Overview and Summary
- b. Volume No. 2: Budget Detail and Financial Reports
- c. Volume No. 3: Capital Investment Program

He noted pursuant to Fridley City Charter, the City Manager prepares an annual budget then the budget must be a principal item of business at a regular meeting of the City Council.

He reviewed the Annual Budget Calendar and Fund Structures, emphasizing the funds the Committee may use for projects. He stated all the information in the budget process is ultimately used to create the City's Long-Term Financial Plan.

The Capital Project Funds that the City maintains were explained to the Committee; Parks Capital Project Fund, Capital Equipment Program, Community Investment Fund, Enterprise Fund, Storm Water Utility Fund, Municipal Liquor Fund, and Property Tax Levy Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

None.

OPEN FORUM

Committee Member Thompson stated she would like to propose at the next meeting they start by discussing where each person is at as individuals and as a Committee regarding what their recommendations might be and then follow it up with a presentation regarding the bonds and funding options.

Committee Member Schwankl stated she is not sure if everyone is ready to have that conversation yet, she feels they need some more information about how the bonds work.

Committee Member Smith stated it may be helpful for Mr. Tienter to highlight what the Committee should be focusing on the most out of all the information provided.

Committee Member Brinkhaus stated knowing what is directly relevant to the Committee and what they should be looking at would indeed be helpful.

Mr. Tienter stated the purpose of the presentation and information provided tonight was to give the Committee an overall view and context on what the budget process is and what funds are available for the Committee to use for projects. He stated he is happy to put together some options for the Committee to review and discuss, noting he didn't do that initially because the City Manager didn't want to limit the Committee's thoughts and discussions on the project.

Committee Member Thompson stated she would like to see where everyone is at regarding the amount of debt they are comfortable assuming and recommending to the City Council based on their personal opinions and thoughts. She noted they need to start looking at other funding sources and see what rules and regulations may govern those.

Committee Member Schmit stated if Mr. Tienter could put together information showing where the Committee can get some of this money from and how much they need to make-up and then they can review what to use such as bonds and such.

Committee Member Ackerman stated they would be naive to assume the City doesn't already have some kind of plan in mind, so it would be beneficial to see some options they are already thinking would be best and the Committee can discuss them and choose which they feel are the best options of those. Committee Member Schmit echoed his sentiments.

It was the consensus of the Committee to have Mr. Tienter present some options that they can review and discuss at the next meeting.

Mr. Tienter thanked the Committee Members for their time. He stated he will put together materials for them to review for the next meeting and noted if anyone has any questions beforehand to feel free to contact him.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michaela Daniels-Kujawa, Recording Secretary



PARK SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PLAN REFINEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 12, 2021

7:00 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue N.E.

MINUTES

Members Present: Mike Heintz, Peter Borman, Dan Gourde, Don Whalen, Kim Farraro, Ken Schulz, Malcolm Mitchell, Liz Novotny, Jordan Hurst, Jim Stangler, Maija Sedzielarz

Members Absent: E.B. Graham, Traci Wuchter, Jeremy Powers

Others Present: Mike Maher, Community Services Director, Candace Amberg, WSB Landscape Architect, and Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager for Streets, Parks and Facilities

Mike Maher, Community Services Director, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Maher welcomed those who were present.

2. Icebreaker Activity

Mr. Maher led the group in an introduction and icebreaker. He concluded the exercise by summarizing that this meeting will be to set the table for the group's future work. The group will discuss how to set expectations of how the group wants the decision-making process to be. He informed the members that these meetings are open to the public.

3. Review and Discuss Refinement Task Force Charter and City Council Resolution No. 2021-51, Directing Continued Efforts Pertaining to the Park System Improvement Plan

Mr. Maher reviewed feedback from the 2021 Town Hall Meeting where preliminary concepts were shared with the public. Responses from residents were considered and caused the City Council to adopt Resolution No. 2021-51, which was the Council's direction for staff to refine the Park System Improvement Plan (Plan). Resolution No. 2021-55 formally appointed members to two separate task forces. The Finance Advisory Committee will examine funding options for the Plan, and the Refinement Committee will examine concept plans to pare down the cost of the Plan to approximately \$30 million.

Mr. Maher reviewed the committee charter, which outlines the framework of the group's work, the format of the committee's meetings and the role of the committee in the overall Plan. He reiterated that this is an advisory committee tasked with making a recommendation, that will ultimately be decided upon by the City Council.

4. Park System Improvement Plan Background

Mr. Maher provided a brief history of the Fridley park system, reviewed current park conditions and introduced park improvement plan benefits. Mr. Maher recapped 2019 community workshops that identified the community's priorities of safe and connected parks for all, nature access, and quality facilities.

Committee members noted additional considerations should be including age groups included in plans, better wayfinding and signage, and flexibility in accommodating sporting trends.

Candace Amberg, WSB Landscape Architect, reviewed her firm's process in analyzing what the current park usages were and incorporated those sports into the Plan. Peter Borman commented that Community Park was built for softball and now is sitting vacant. Mr. Borman recommend consulting with sports associations to find out why they play where they do. Mr. Maher said the next meeting would be to review community parks. Ms. Amberg reported that she will consult with local sports associations to integrate their feedback, community survey results, and feedback from this meeting's discussions to refine concept plans.

Mr. Maher reconfirmed the group will get into discussions on specific parks and uses for each at later meetings.

Jim Stangler noted it would be nice to know what each park is currently being used for. Ms. Amberg replied that analysis will be integrated into future presentations to the group as concept plans change.

Mr. Maher asked the group to spend time reviewing each park concept. The group will discuss the three community parks: Commons, Community and Moore Lake, and approximately six of the neighborhood/special use parks to recommend changes. In subsequent meetings the group will decide what six parks they will work on. This process will help refine the priorities, which will impact the price.

Mike Heintz noted the Park and Recreation Commission's strong recommendation that there be no consideration of selling any park land within the City. Mr. Maher noted the consideration of selling park land is not being considered in the Plan.

Malcolm Mitchell asked if there were any criteria for review that the group should look at? Ms. Amberg replied that yes, the priority to understand system as a whole to identify particular populations and how the parks serve them, examine the barriers to park usage, age of the park, safety concerns, condition and accessibility of each park. Ms. Amberg discussed barriers to recreation in high-density, low-income and minority neighborhoods is a major component of analyzing the Plan. Those are the parks she really would encourage the group to focus on to make sure the most meaningful impact to the community is felt. The change needs to be noticeable so taxpayers understand what their tax dollars pay for. Ms. Amberg stressed the need to make a good and big impact for residents so they realize the good work being done and are supportive of additional improvements.

Kim Farraro asked how long it would take to pay for the Plan. Mr. Maher said it depends on the recommendation of the Finance Committee who is working on exploring different financing strategies. Mr. Mitchell thought working on financing strategies first does not make sense until the Plan is fully

established with a clear price tag. Mr. Maher informed the committee that most likely the primary source of funding will be bonding, but other avenues are being explored. This group is tasked with paring down to the current proposal from \$50 million to \$30 million at direction of the City Council.

Mr. Heintz added the City has a good track record with how it financed the Springbrook Nature Center building through bonding. Mr. Maher added that if the group would like to learn more about the financing options, he would request the City's Finance Director come to speak with the committee.

Ms. Amberg noted this is an exercise to prioritize top parks to work on. There will be projects that will move down the priority list and that will decrease the cost. She asked the committee to look at broad picture to make sure the whole community is served.

Mr. Mitchell asked if the \$50 million price was based on high-estimate price for each concept plan in the binder. Ms. Amberg affirmed. Ms. Farraro asked if there a price list for each item at each park? Ms. Amberg affirmed and noted that as the group works through feedback, they can decide what items to remove, which will decrease the overall cost.

Ms. Amberg reviewed the park service area analysis in the committee's binders.

Mr. Mitchell asked what features are most desired by diverse groups. Ms. Amberg recommended the committee consider age. Typically, City parks accommodate younger children, and teens are often not considered when new equipment is installed. Also, how can we get parents involved to enjoy the park alongside their children or grandchildren.

Mr. Heintz added shelter buildings are appealing for diverse groups who use those facilities for family/community gatherings. It is a good way to serve those who may not have their own yard space. Mr. Maher noted these discussions will be a big part of this group's work.

Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager for Streets, Parks and Facilities stressed the important work of this group to analyze and determine where are high-need areas are. There will be some conflict. The group must weigh all aspects and prioritize the work to be done, and not every group will be satisfied. The committee's task is to discuss and debate so the City may attempt to best serve all groups. He added that the City needs to create a Plan that will provoke a response from residents to the Plan, and this committee is tasked with finding a way to wisely pare down the initial proposal.

Mr. Borman asked if the committee should take into consideration the added burden to the City of staff hours and maintenance. Mr. Jensen answered, not at this phase. The operational cost has already been considered. Those costs will be absorbed by the City and is a past practice of the Council.

Mr. Maher informed the committee that first thing they will be asked to consider are the three community parks. He asked the group to visit each one and envision the space with the proposed changes to visualize the concepts. This will allow each member to best be prepared to analyze each proposal, and to recommend changes.

5. Task Force Meeting Agreements

Mr. Maher led the group through a discussion to understand and agree on how the group will interact with each other.

Mr. Borman asked how long the meetings go on, and what was the ultimate goal. Mr. Maher replied that he has scheduled meetings until the end of 2021. He is open to what the group thinks for how long they would want to meet. Don Whalen added that the first two meetings will tell the group a lot once they begin getting into details. Ms. Amberg added the next meeting will be to discuss high-level items first, and subsequent meetings will do a deeper examination into particular parks. Mr. Maher reminded the group that their suggestions will go to Ms. Amberg who will then bring back a revised Plan for the group to review.

Mr. Mithcell suggested the meetings be set for 90 minutes with the flexibility to go longer, but not more than two hours. The group collectively agreed.

Mr. Mitchell noted its ok to have a disagreement. Maija Sedzielarz added the committee members should assume positive intent and be willing to listen to other people's perspective.

Mr. Maher confirmed that all members will have an equal voice in the process and committee meetings. The committee's meetings will be public meetings and members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Mr. Maher reminded the group that this is a refinement process where the three community parks will be examined first, followed up by six neighborhood parks. The committee will work toward an end recommendation that the City Council will consider.

Mr. Jensen added that this could be a ten-year plan. Part of the process with any park plan is community input to begin designing a concept. This group will work to take those park concepts, consider feedback from the community and planning experts to come to a more defined and clearer concept. Then ultimately, present the refined Plan to the community for their buy-in.

Ms. Amberg offered to provide guidance through her expertise, but will not make any decisions for the group.

Mr. Stangler asked why the City is not asking for the full \$50 million concept. Ms. Amberg answered that based on community feedback in the resident survey, there was a set dollar amount residents were willing to pay for a Plan. Mr. Maher confirmed that the City Council decided on the \$30 million price based on the resident survey.

Ms. Farraro asked if the group was aware of increasing taxes from the school districts and the County. Mr. Maher explained that the City typically uses eight other cities as comparisons for percentage of property taxes. Fridley is usually in the middle of that list. He noted that adding a \$30 million bond would increase property taxes but not significantly compared to other cities. Ms. Farraro added that a tax increase would compete with another increase from the school district, and may not be supported. Mr. Maher acknowledged it will be hard to separate the finance conversation from the work of this committee, but that is the work of the finance committee.

6. Review and Confirm Future Meeting Schedule

Mr. Maher presented proposed meeting dates for the remainder of 2021: September 9, October 14, November 10, and December 9. For each meeting an agenda along with the previous meeting's minutes will be sent.

Jordan Hurst asked for confirmation of what the committee should do for the next meeting. Mr. Heintz answered to take the binder to the community parks and visualize the Plan and come to the meeting to discuss.

Mr. Maher thanked the committee for attending this evening's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Moore, Administrative Services Coordinator/Deputy City Clerk



PARK SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PLAN REFINEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 09, 2021

7:00 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue N.E.

AGENDA

Present: Mike Heintz, Traci Wuchter, Dan Gourde, Don Whalen, Kim Ferraro, Malcolm Mitchell, Jordan Hurst, Jeremy Powers, Pete Borman, Jim Stangler

Absent: E.B. Graham, Liz Novotny, Ken Schultz, Maija Sedzielarz

Others Present: Alyssa Kruzel, Community Engagement Specialist, Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager for Streets, Parks and Facilities, Candace Amberg, WSB Landscape Architect, Mike Maher, Community Services Director, David Ostwald, City Councilmember, Melissa Moore, City Clerk, Anna Disco, Nick Skochinsky

Mike Maher, Community Services Director, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

1. Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2021 Refinement Advisory Committee Meeting

Mr. Mitchell informed the group that the bonding for Springbrook did not from the City, but from the State. Ms. Moore agreed to revise the minutes to reflect the correction.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

2. Community Park Plans Review and Discussion

Mr. Maher reviewed the Committee's agreements for meeting decorum established at the August 12, 2021 meeting and reminded the group they were to go out and review the plans for the three community parks.

Ms. Amberg directed the group to page 17 of the agenda regarding the concept plan for Moore Lake Park. The plan the group will review today was developed from WSB's research and direction from the City gained from the resident survey. Moore Lake is a highly visible park and referred to as a "community gem" from the resident survey. Residents ranked the community parks as what was most important. Moore Lake ranked first.

Ms. Amberg stated the current proposed plan improves parking areas, adding a dog park area, creating a flexible open lawn space, improve existing volleyball space, adding a new group picnic shelter and picnic lawn, larger playground spaces, new beach pavilion and lakeside plaza. This plan does shrink down the

beach area, to accommodate other water activities than swimming, such as canoes and paddleboards, a lakeside boardwalk, improvements to existing docks and improvements to the lake's water quality. The plan does remove the tennis and basketball courts. If residents wanted to play tennis, there are nearby courts at Totino Grace and Briardale Park. And anyone wishing to play basketball could visit Briardale Park and Hackman Circle.

Mr. Heintz noted Moore lake is closed to swimming due to water quality. Mr. Mitchell asked for an update on the water quality. Mr. Jensen answered the City received a grant from the Rice Creek Watershed District to install an enhanced sand iron filter system, and is treating the water for phosphorous levels. There are issues with e-coli, due to geese, which is heavily dependent on the water levels. Mr. Jensen informed the group that to fix the water will be a 50+ year project. The water is relatively clean, but has floating debris in it, so its mainly an appearance issue. The City continues regular testing and is researching different filtration solutions.

Mr. Powers asked if plant filters could be placed to assist. Mr. Jensen answered that plant buffer zones are great to help with water quality, and is a part of the plan for Moore Lake.

Mr. Stangler asked if there was a cost breakdown by amenity. He asked if the City considered Moore Lake as a location for the splashpad. Ms. Amberg noted there is some amenity cost breakdown in the committee's information.

Mr. Mitchell asked if it would be possible to connect both sides of the lake under Highway 65. Mr. Jensen said that would be up to the State and would be extremely expensive.

Ms. Disco commented that if there was something there to draw people to the lake, such as a splashpad, since the water quality keeps people away.

Mr. Heintz would like to see an emphasis on park shelter spaces. The group agreed the park currently gets a lot of use for gatherings. Ms. Amberg asked the group for feedback on the shelter areas. Ms. Wuchter added these would be needed especially if there's a splashpad. The group agreed.

Mr. Gourde commented he felt the dog park area was not necessary because of a larger County-owned dog park nearby. The group agreed.

Ms. Amberg asked the group if they approved of about the baseball fields being repurposed. The group agreed.

Ms. Amberg asked the group for feedback on removal of the tennis courts. The group agreed on the plan to remove them for more green space. Mr. Gourde noted Commons Park has tennis space.

Mr. Mitchell suggested a basketball half court be added. The group agreed.

Ms. Amberg asked the group for feedback on the play spaces. The group expressed approval of the proposed area.

Ms. Amberg asked the group for feedback on the boardwalk or trails. Mr. Mitchell said there should be a loop. Mr. Jensen said the trail through the swamp to the north would need to be a boardwalk.

Mr. Heintz asked about stationary exercise equipment and bike repair stations. Ms. Amberg replied those amenities are in the Commons Park plan.

Mr. Mitchell asked if alternative energy solutions were considered. Ms. Amberg said those are considerations for discussions at a later stage. Mr. Jensen noted the City is testing solar lights at the park to the east of City Hall.

Mr. Hurst noted his desire to include food stations for guests to the park. The group agreed that would be an option for future consideration.

Ms. Amberg opened a discussion on Community Park. This park was ranked third in the resident survey. The plan includes new walking trails, creating new flexible spaces and improving existing athletic fields. The proposed plan includes new turf fields, a new parking area, new playground, interactive sport court, edible orchard, demonstration gardens, and resizing one of the fields to youth ball sports.

Mr. Heintz expressed concern that this proposed plan does not accommodate baseball. The group discussed various layout options. Mr. Stangler suggested turf fields.

Mr. Miller noted this park should be more coordinated with the Civic Campus. Mr. Jensen noted the City's leadership eventually wants to see a connection with the Civic Campus with Community Park, via an overpass.

Ms. Amberg opened a discussion on Commons Park. This park was ranked second in the resident survey. Two ball fields are proposed to be removed for flexible space. Ms. Ferraro noted the ball fields are used heavily by kids who walk directly from the Middle School. Mr. Stangler and Mr. Heintz expressed concern that baseball players age 12-16 do not currently have ballfields that accommodate the size fields they require. Mr. Powers asked if a needs assessment was done for ball fields. Mr. Jensen asked if different ages could play on the same fields but have some sort of movable mound. Mr. Stangler said field one at Community is the only field that meets the 75-foot baseline requirement for baseball. Mr. Powers recommended feedback is needed from the local associations to assess the needs. Ms. Farraro said if a baseball field was removed from Community, the 12–16-year-old kids would not have a field to play on. Ms. Amberg will consult with the City and baseball associations to alter her proposals for baseball fields among the community parks.

Ms. Amberg noted the plan's winter recreation activity area. The group supported the idea and expressed a strong desire to not decrease the size of the sledding hill.

Mr. Stangler asked why the hockey rink needs to move. Mr. Jensen said the biggest feedback from the survey was for warming houses and restrooms for public use.

Mr. Jensen added the City is extremely short on soccer fields. Mr. Mitchell asked if there are projections on needs for soccer, and other sports. Ms. Amberg said it depends on each community.

Ms. Amberg asked the group for their desire to keep the splashpad and pavilion. The group agreed.

3. Review Next Steps and Future Meeting Dates

Mr. Maher asked Ms. Amberg if she could have alternative plans for the next meeting. She said she would have a line drawing concept plan generated from this evening's discussion for the October 14 meeting.

Mr. Mitchell asked if there was information on changing demographics of neighborhoods. Ms. Amberg answered they do have demographic assessments and needs assessments. She plans to review as many neighborhood parks as the group can work through.

Mr. Maher reminded the group the next meeting dates are October 14 and November 10. The best preparation committee members can do is to review the proposed park plans in the neighborhood plans, and review the public's comments.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Moore, City Clerk



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 4, 2021

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager – Streets, Parks, and Facilities

Title

Park Maintenance and Construction Report

Background

Mr. Jensen will provide the Commission with a verbal report.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None.

Attachments and Other Resources

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Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 4, 2021

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Margo Numedahl, Recreation Division Manager

Title

Fridley Parks and Recreation Division Report

Background

Attached are highlights from the Recreation Division from September 2021.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

- Recreation Division Highlights: September 2021

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.



HIGHLIGHTS

Recreation Division: September 2021

Fall Programs

Session one of Fall programs began in September. Below is a list of current programs and participation numbers.

PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY

Soccer (3 classes)	38
Flag Football (2 classes)	17
Halloween Fun (1 class)	6

ADULT FITNESS & ATHLETICS

Zumba (2 classes)	20
Pickleball Clinic (with Spring Lake Park Rec)	7 (total:12)
Fall Softball	5 (teams)

SPECIAL EVENTS

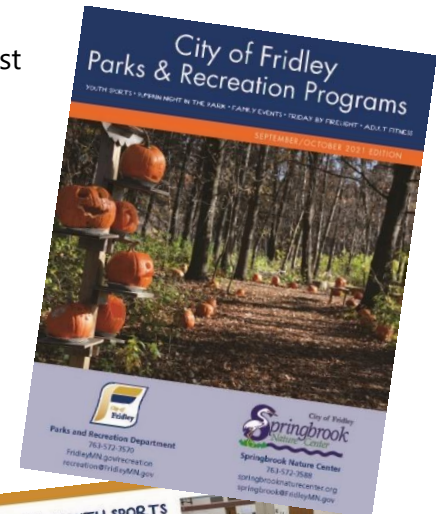
Adult Painting in the Park – Paint Your Pet	5
Fabulous Fall ROX	5 kits (24 people)

Parks and Recreation Brochure

The September/October edition of the brochure was mailed to residents the first week in September. We have completed the content for the November/December brochure and it is currently being designed.

Lawn of the Week

We awarded five Fridley residents with the Lawn of the Week this summer for exemplifying creativity, neatness and beauty. Lawns were nominated by Fridley Residents and staff selected the winners and placed a sign in their front yard. The program continues to be well received and winners have been appreciative of the recognition. We have now opened voting online for Lawn of the Year!



Painting in the Park – Paint Your Pet

We have been working with Deb Magelssen from Cheers Pablo to provide painting classes at the SNC Pavilion Activity Center. The most recent class was held on Monday, September 20th. Participants e-mailed photographs of their pets in advance of the class and Deb created a faint pencil sketch on canvases to prepare the paintings. Everyone really enjoyed the evening and created excellent paintings! We look forward to offering more classes in upcoming seasons.



DiREctions E-Newsletter

The Recreation E-Newsletter launched on Tuesday, August 26th. This will be a monthly newsletter that is e-mailed to those in our participant database, delivered on the fourth Tuesday of the month, alternating with the Tales from the Trails (Springbrook Nature Center E-Newsletter) which is delivered on the second Tuesday of the month. The City Communications Division was crucial in getting the template created and will continue to help finalize each edition. We hope this will help with promotion of programs, as well as keep the community engaged in our programming and parks.



Welcome Jessica, Recreation Customer Service Representative

Jessica Nelson-Roehl joined our team as the Customer Service Representative on July 15th. Jessica has lived in Fridley since 2013 and comes to us from a background working in the music business as an instructor, performer, and COO of a national music store. In addition, she has 2 years of experience managing 612 Sauna Society Cooperative providing mobile sauna experiences to the public throughout the Twin Cities. Jessica is already proving to be a huge asset to our team, she has a very friendly and positive attitude and has been learning the job quickly. She brings new ideas and is streamlining processes. One of her first projects was launching the Recreation E-Newsletter last month and she is excited to continue with a variety of upcoming projects. In addition, she will be assisting the Parks and Recreation Commission by putting together the agenda packets. (Jessica is also pictured on the far right as a participant in the Paint Your Pet class!)





AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: October 4, 2021

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Tara Rogness, Springbrook Nature Center Manager

Title

Springbrook Nature Center Report

Background

Attached is the September update from Springbrook Nature Center

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

- Springbrook Nature Center September 2021 Update

Vision Statement

We believe Fridley will be a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

Springbrook Nature Center

Park & Rec Commission Report

Fall Highlights

- The Springbrook Naturalist Staff is thrilled to be back in the classroom and out on the trail with students this school year. We've been teaching evolution and adaptations to FMS 5th graders, rolling over logs to find out what's living underneath with Adams Elementary 1st graders, and look forward to encouraging curious minds to pose questions about the world around them. More grade levels are to come this fall!
- Starting this fall, we will be teaching with Park Terrace Elementary – we hope to inspire some scientific inquiry during our Friday visits.
- We hosted the Friday Night by Firelight series at the Amphitheater, thanks to sponsorship by the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation. We were able to bring in Katie Knudsen, storyteller extraordinaire, River Valley Raptors: Falconry experts, and Kathleen Johnson, the singing storyteller this year.
- Pumpkin Night in the Park planning is well underway. We have more than 1200 pumpkins on the way, hundreds of volunteers lined up to carve pumpkins, and more than a year and a half of pent-up excitement to organize and run this fantastic event. (I regularly tell everyone who will listen that PNITP is the BEST day of the year!) We are still looking for more volunteers to help with the event, let me know if you would like to get elbow-deep in some pumpkin guts this fall!

Upcoming this Winter

- Once the snow flies, we are ready to start renting out snowshoes to the public.
- Mark your calendars for Winterfest! This year's event will be held at Springbrook Nature Center on Saturday, January 22nd from 11am – 2 pm.
- Springbrook will host the Minneapolis North Circle of the National Audubon Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 18th.

Grants

- Springbrook was awarded \$4000 by International Paper. We will be installing a brand new exhibit entitled "Becoming a Bird Watcher". The exhibit will include interpretive displays, binoculars, interactive bird id, and will focus on the bird feeders outside the exhibit room.