



Park Commission Meeting

March 6, 2023

7:00 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue NE

Minutes

Call to Order

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

Present

Luke Cardona
Peter Borman
Suad Maow
Ken Schultz
Don Whalen
Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda for March 6, 2023

Motion by Commissioner Schultz to approve the March 6, 2023 meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Whalen. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes for February 6, 2023

Motion by Commissioner Whalen to approve the February 6, 2023 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Schultz. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Maow arrived.

New Business

1. Discussion with Fridley Youth Sports Association Baseball Leadership

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that the Commission had asked to have check-ins with different sports associations and tonight Jim Stangler is present from FYSA Baseball.

Jim Stangler, FYSA Baseball, provided information on enrollment numbers, marketing, clinics offered to younger kids, and equipment donations. He stated that he is currently focused on recruitment and fundraising. He commented that the little league fields in the community are great, and the kids love the availability of concessions at the fields. He provided details on sponsorships, team fees, grant availability, and challenges. He also provided details on

tournaments and events planned for the upcoming season. He appreciated the efforts of City staff, their cooperation and excellent maintenance.

The Commission acknowledged the affordability of the programming and thanked Mr. Stangler for sharing that information.

2. Rice Creek West Regional Trail Corridor Master Plan Update

Karen Blaska, Anoka County Parks Planner, provided an update on the development concept for the trail corridor noting that they are working through the joint powers concept and have removed the parks the City will be taking over. She stated that the trail was separated into six segments and provided more details on the planned improvements and amenities for each segment.

The Commission asked for details on the timeline for the project and whether there has been priority assigned. Ms. Blaska provided details noting that for the entire project the timeline would be one to 20 years, as it would be dependent on funding. She commented that some of the items would be completely relatively quickly because they have a low cost and noted that they would be working to develop priorities. She welcomed input.

The Commission expressed a preference for the single-track trails. The connection to Ramsey County facilities was mentioned and the Commission asked if there has been any collaboration. Ms. Blaska noted some of the improvements Ramsey County has made and confirmed that the groups have worked together in the past.

The Commission thanked Ms. Blaska for sharing the information.

3. Park System Common Elements Discussion

Mr. Maher explained the purpose of having common elements within the parks that help to create a brand and identity within the system. He provided examples of some of the different common features such as benches and other seating options, park entrance signage, colors, and others. He noted that staff has provided input on the different materials to address concerns with maintenance.

The Commission agreed that the park entrance signs should be similar in color and design rather than including the City logo on the signs. The Commission also had a preference for browns or darker colors for certain elements that may hold up well with the weather and potential vandalism. The Commission supported the recommendations and direction of staff, urging staff to think about the items that will hold up the best against weather and time. There was also a note to think about seating choices for residents of all ages. The Commission also provided input and preference for the different types of park signage. Mr. Maher noted that he can bring back some updated concepts for the Commission to provide input on.

The Commission provided input on the color range for the shelters, agreeing with the suggestion of staff.

Staff Reports

4. Springbrook Nature Center Report

Mr. Maher provided an overview of the report including staffing and programing at the Nature Center.

5. Fridley Parks and Recreation Division Report

Mr. Maher provided an overview of the report and highlighted recent events and programing.

6. Park Maintenance and Construction Report

Mr. Maher reviewed the written report.

The Commission noted a trail near Community Park that is in need of maintenance/ice removal.

Unfinished Business

None

Adjournment

Commissioner Whalen made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Cardona. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Staple
Recording Secretary