



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 07, 2022

7:00 PM

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

AGENDA

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- [1.](#) February 7, 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

New Business

- [2.](#) 49er Days Event and Committee Update by President Gordon Backlund

Old Business

Staff Reports

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

Adjournment



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: March 7, 2022

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Community Services Director

Title

February 7, 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

Background

Attached are the meeting minutes of the February 7, 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

Staff recommend the approval of the February 7, 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.

Attachments and Other Resources

- February 7, 2022 Parks and Recreation Minutes.

Vision Statement

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



PARK COMMISSION MEETING

February 7, 2022

7:00 PM

Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Avenue N.E.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

Mike Heintz
Eric Evanson
Peter Borman
Ryan Gerhard
Ken Schultz
Mike Maher, Director of Community Services

APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 7, 2022

MOTION by Commissioner Schultz to APPROVE the February 7, 2022 meeting agenda. SECONDED by Commissioner Evanson. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES FOR JANUARY 4, 2022

MOTION by Commissioner Borman to APPROVE the January 4, 2022 meeting minutes. SECONDED by Commissioner Evanson. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

A. Anoka County SHIP Grant for Fridley Bike Fleet

Mike Maher, Director of Community Services, stated that the City of Fridley has the opportunity to accept a SHIP grant for a fleet of bicycles that could be used for recreational programming and provided additional details on the grant and proposed program.

The Commission asked about ongoing maintenance of the fleet, whether there would be opportunities to use the bikes in the winter months, the number of bikes that would be considered to be a fleet, and whether helmets would be part of the fleet. It was also asked as to how Fridley was selected for the grant.

Mr. Maher provided options for ongoing maintenance and possible winter use of the fleet. He estimated between 15 to 20 bicycles in the fleet and confirmed that helmets would be an eligible expense. He stated that although they envision partnerships with other communities as part of the

program, they have not delved into the details of what those agreements may look like. He explained that staff has explored alternative programming options and in discussion with Anoka County found out the City would be eligible for the grant.

MOTION by Commissioner Schultz to support the Anoka County SHIP Grant for the Fridley Bike Fleet. SECONDED by Commissioner Evanson. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Fridley Parks and Recreation Division Report

Mr. Maher reviewed highlights from the report.

B. Springbrook Nature Center Report

Mr. Maher provided a summary of the report.

C. Park Maintenance and Construction Report

Mr. Maher reviewed the written report. He provided details on the cross-country ski trail locations, noting that they are being utilized.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Borman made the MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m., SECONDED by Commissioner Evanson. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Staple
Recording Secretary



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: March, 7, 2022

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Mike Maher, Director of Community Services

Title

49er Days Event and Committee Update by President Gordon Backlund

Background

The Fridley 49er Days Festival is a community tradition in Fridley since 1974. The festival is planned and organized by a non-profit Board of community members. The City of Fridley staff supports the event by providing space, planning and logistical support.

Committee President Gordon Backlund will provide an update on the status of the event planning, sponsorships, and areas where volunteers may be needed.

Financial Impact

The 49er Days Committee raises the funds needed to run the parade and festival. The City of Fridley provides staff from the Parks and Recreation Division, Public Works Department and Public Safety Department to contribute to the success and safety of the event.

Recommendation

No action is requested from the Commission at this time.

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: March 7, 2022

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 February 2022.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

- Recreation Division Highlights: February 2022

Vision Statement

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HIGHLIGHTS

Recreation Division: February 2022

Winter Programs

Winter programs began in the end of January. Below is an updated list of January-February programs and participation numbers. Spring classes begin in March, we are currently taking registrations.

PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY

Games Galore (2 classes)	8
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ADULT FITNESS & ATHLETICS

Zumba (2 classes)	18
Aqua Zumba	11
Pickleball Skills & Drills (5- Fridley; 5 - SLP)	10

ALL AGES

ROX Box – Funny Valentine	5
Ice Fishing for Beginners	3
Passion Pursuit	9

Parks and Recreation Brochure

The March-April brochure was mailed to residents beginning on February 22. This brochure contains spring and summer programs.

Class Registrations

Our newest brochure and e-newsletter came out on 2/22/22 and we saw an immediate increase in class registrations for Spring & Summer 2022. We think that part of the increase is due to local schools being held in person again, along with declining Covid cases in the community. This edition is our largest brochure of the year and features programs from March to August.



Winter Pop-up Event: Skating, Sledding & S'more!

Due to cold weather, we had to reschedule our original Commons Park Pop-Up from Saturday, 2/12 to Thursday, 2/17. We had a total of 20 families come out to enjoy sledding, free use of ice skates, bonfires, s'mores, hot cocoa & hot apple cider, and wheel of fun/prizes. Our next Winter Pop-Up will be held at Springbrook on 3/8 featuring a St Patrick's themed scavenger hunt.

Summer

We've been busy planning for ROCKS, our popular 10 week summer day camp program. This year we will be offering online registration for the camp, and kids can attend one week or all 10. Online registration is all set-up, online web materials are published, and we are ready to go for our March 1 rollout. A variety of fun and different morning classes are planned for each day, along with Wednesday field trips for kids in grades K-7.

Adopt-A-Park

We have confirmed that 90% of last year's park volunteers are returning to Adopt-A-Park in 2022. Registration will open to new groups in early March and we are planning an April kickoff event for this year's volunteers.

Park Shelter Reservations

We have seen an uptick in reservations—many are thinking spring and planning ahead to reserve the Commons Park Shelter.

Team Leadership Series

Leaders Mike Maher, Tara Rogness and Margo Numedahl created a leadership series for the employees of the Community Services Division. Our first meeting in the series was held at Springbrook Nature Center on 2/11 and focused on what makes a leader, coaching and mastering the art of negative feedback. It was a great start to the series and well-received by all employees that participated. The next event in the series will occur in March.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: March 7, 2022

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

Submitted By: Tara Rogness, Springbrook Nature Center Manager

Title

Springbrook Nature Center Report

Background

Attached is the February 2022 update from Springbrook Nature Center

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

None

Attachments and Other Resources

- Springbrook Nature Center February 2022 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

Item 4.

February Highlights

- Naturalists have been teaching Stevenson and Hayes third graders about insulation for warm blooded creatures and snowshoeing techniques. The weather has certainly helped us test our insulative properties.
- Fridley Middle School 7th graders are starting up their module on Ecology. They have learned about the basics of healthy ecosystems by playing a nature center developed card game. Next, they will learn about ecological relationships and perform a lab that simulates interactions found in nature (predation, competition, feeding preferences like generalism and niche-feeding, etc.). To round out the module, they will travel to SNC for a game of Predator Prey that spans a large area of the nature center.
- Adams Elementary 3rd graders are also learning about snowshoes, exploring the natural areas on school grounds, finding animal signs and tracks galore.
- 1st and 2nd graders at Park Terrace have been learning about a variety of topics during their afterschool enrichment programs with Naturalists Cody and Ren.
- Interpretive Program Coordinators, Dina Cyrus and Cody Rossetti are in the process of hiring seasonal naturalist staff. We hope to have our summer staff in place soon. Hiring this season has been much more challenging this year than in the past.
- February's Lantern Light Hike was held on Friday, February 11th from 6:30 – 8:30. Nearly 45 individuals braved frigid temperatures to explore the park by lantern light.
- Summer camp registration opened on January 31st to record numbers of registrants. Within the first 24 hours, all of our 5-6 year old and 7-9 year old camps were full. We still have some 10-12 year old spots available, check out the SNC website for more information (www.springbrooknaturecenter.org)



Upcoming this Winter

- Snowshoes are now available for rent as long as the snowpack holds. For just \$5 per pair, you can float over snowdrifts and explore new and different areas of Springbrook.
- We're excited to offer another Lantern Light Hike on Friday, March 11th from 6:30 – 8:30. Multiple trails will be lined with lanterns and luminaries (provided it's not too windy) for your hiking pleasure. Snowshoes will also be available for rent while supplies last. (Volunteers are needed for this event, if you are interested, please reach out to Cody Rossetti (cody.rossetti@fridley.mn.gov).
- Junior Leaders are back! Do you know a teenager between the ages of 13 and 18 who likes to hang out with kids outside? We are looking for youth to volunteer a week at a time to help with the summer camp program. More information can be found on our website: www.springbrooknaturecenter.org



Grants

- Springbrook is working with the Recreation division on an Anoka County SHIP grant. We are excited to be looking at purchasing a fleet of bikes that will be utilized in all kinds of innovative programming across both divisions.



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: March 7, 2022

Meeting Type: Parks and Recreation Commission

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

Title

Park Maintenance and Construction Report

Background

Attached is the Park Maintenance and Construction report for February 2022.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

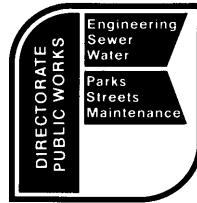
None.

Attachments and Other Resources

- Park Maintenance Report February 2022

Vision Statement

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



MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager-Streets, Parks and Facilities

DATE: February, 2022

SUBJECT February Parks Report

The Park Department has been maintaining rinks everyday and all are in good shape. Warm weather will be coming soon and we will continue until unable to keep safe ice. We continue to be involved in snowplowing and snow removal on trails and sidewalks. Grooming continues on ski trails as well. We have had resignation and are in the process of hiring a new full time employee and started advertising for seasonal help.

Jej:jej