



Park Commission Meeting (Work Session)

June 5, 2023

6:00 PM

Locke Park, 840 71st Avenue NE, Fridley MN 55432

Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Borman called the Parks and Recreation Commission work session to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present

EB Graham
Peter Borman
Tim Kirk
Suad Maow
Ken Schultz
Don Whalen
Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director

Absent

Luke Cardona

Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes for April 3, 2023

Motion by Commissioner Graham to approve the May 1, 2023 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Whalen. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda for June 5, 2023

Motion by Commissioner Schultz to approve the June 5, 2023 meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Graham. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. Locke Park Walking Tour

The Commissioners and Staff walked through the developed portion of Locke Park to discuss ideas for improvements and changes to the property once the City of Fridley assumes operation of the park in November of 2023.

Ideas for Park Features and Amenities:

- Exercise stations

- 9-hole disc golf course
- Possible community gardens
- Sand volleyball
- Expansion of dog park to include designated small dog area
- Singletrack mountain bike trail system
- Horseshoe pits

Trails

- Groom or plow trails in winter
- Create a loop on the south side of the creek

Natural Resource Management:

- Clear and maintain water trail on Rice Creek
- Clear and maintain invasive buckthorn

Signage and Wayfinding:

- Include "Civic Campus Playground" in Locke Park and install park sign
- Install directional signage along trails
- Consider interpretive signs along trails for nature education, invasive species, etc.
- Improve signage on University Ave and University Ave frontage road

Community Events, Education and Recreation:

- Concerts in the Park
- Movies in the Park
- Bounce house event
- Winterfest
- General encouragement for community events throughout year to increase awareness of park

Maintenance and Operations:

- Remove dumpster by dog park entrance
- Install irrigation around shelter 1 to improve and maintain turf grass
- Bathroom patrol
- Foot or bike patrol
- Spray for mosquitoes

Other Ideas and Notes:

- Promote park in City Newsletter
- Consider bike fleet programs in Locke Park and Rice Creek Trail
- Develop community survey
- Install benches along trail by creek
- Maintain geocaches in park

2. Parks and Recreation Commission 2023 Goals and Workplan Review

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Maher reviewed the 2023 Commission work plan with the Commission. Commissioners were invited to attend and participate in a series of four community engagement events to be held at parks to be improved in 2024. Events will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 pm. and event dates will be July 12 at Logan Park, July 27 at Plymouth Square Park, August 10 at Edgewater Gardens Park and August 24th at Sylvan Hills Park.

Two items were suggested for addition to the work plan including development of a disposition policy for park buildings and furnishings and to review/refine the development concept plan for Commons Park.

Old Business

Staff Reports

2. Springbrook Nature Center Report

Mr. Maher presented the Springbrook Nature Center report.

3. Fridley Parks and Recreation Division Report

Mr. Maher provided details on program enrollments, recent events, and staffing for the Recreation Division.

4. Park Maintenance and Construction Report

Mr. Maher presented the park maintenance and construction report.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Borman at 8:55

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Maher
Parks and Recreation Director, City of Fridley