



Park Commission Meeting

February 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
EB Graham
Peter Borman
Jacqueline Lee
Ken Schultz
Don Whalen
Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Ryan Evanson, City Council Member

Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda for February 6, 2023

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

Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes for December 5, 2022

Motion by Commissioner Graham to approve the December 5, 2022 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Schultz. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business/Action Items

1. Election of Vice Chair

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Maher introduced the new members of the Commission.

Chair Borman commented that the position of Vice Chair is open as the term of the previous Vice Chair expired. He welcomed nominations.

Commissioner Schultz nominated Commissioner Graham for the position of Vice Chair.

Commissioner Graham accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Moore Lake Project Updates

Mr. Maher presented an overview of the proposed project plans, highlighting different elements and proposed phasing. He provided clarification on specific elements asked about by the Commission. He stated that a preliminary schedule was included in the packet with the target for completion as the end of October. He reviewed renderings and more specific information on the basic operations of the building and restrooms, noting that as the process moves along, they would develop policies and plans for the building and rentals.

The Commission asked if the swimming area would still be available, although it may not be staffed; acknowledging that the area has not been promoted for swimming in more recent years because of the water quality. The Commission also asked about the plantings. Mr. Maher commented that the area would not be marketed as a swimming beach and that size has been shrunk considerably. He noted that people could still use the water for recreation, but active swimming would not be promoted. He provided details on the planned landscaping which will include native plants.

Mr. Maher presented the proposed final layout for the playground. He reviewed the proposed project schedule and provided details on the construction management company the City has been working with on the project. He noted that while the needed infrastructure within the building for certain amenities has been planned for, the inside furnishing have not yet been decided on.

3. Parks and Recreation Commission 2023 Goals and Workplan

Mr. Maher provided an overview including the intention for this agenda item and some draft goals the Commission could consider for its workplan for the year.

The Commission agreed with the draft goals and asked how progress would be measured for the Commission. Mr. Maher acknowledged that staff is putting in most of the work on certain items, but the Commission does provide feedback and often helps to guide the progress. He used the example of event attendance, noting that the Commission often provides feedback after that is used for the next event. The role of the Commission was discussed, noting that staff handles the day-to-day operations, and the Commission provides guidance and input when necessary.

Motion by Commissioner Cardona to adopt the workplan. Seconded by Commissioner Schultz. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Future Meetings Schedule and Format Discussion

Mr. Maher provided background information on the previous meeting format of the Commission as well as the current meeting format. He stated that the Commission could choose to incorporate in some worksession meetings which would allow for more informal discussions with formal action still be considered at regular Commission meetings.

The Commission suggested holding regular meetings when formal action is needed from the Commission while also incorporating worksession meetings for items that require more discussion and/or updates. Mr. Maher agreed that there are times when a meeting may not be necessary, and that decision could be made in coordination between Mr. Maher and the Chair. The Commission provided input on which items would be preferred for a worksession versus a regular meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Schultz to authorize the Chair and staff to make the decision as to whether a worksession meeting would be necessary prior to a regular meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Whalen.

Further discussion: The Commission discussed the logistics of a worksession and what time that could be held. It was the consensus of the Commission that further discussion should occur, and this topic should come back to the next meeting.

The motion failed unanimously.

Mr. Maher and the Chair will discuss this concept prior to the next meeting and the agenda item will come back to the Commission at its next meeting.

Old Business

Staff Reports

5. Springbrook Nature Center Report

Mr. Maher provided a brief summary of the written report highlighting programing and events. He noted that registration for summer camps at Springbrook opened today and many of the camps are nearly full already.

6. Fridley Parks and Recreation Division Report

Mr. Maher briefly summarized the written report which includes information on youth and adult recreational programing.

7. Park Maintenance and Construction Report

Mr. Maher provided an overview of the written report which summarizes recent park maintenance activity of staff.

The Commission noted the upcoming Winter Warm-Up event at Banquets of Minnesota which is happening this Friday, February 10th and is sponsored by the Fridley Lions and Fridley Liquor.

Adjournment

Commissioner Whalen made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Graham. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Staple
Recording Secretary