

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gwenia Fiskevold Gould, Don Heinonen, Wendy Kvale, Tonya Prim, and Bethany Wesley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim Faver and Tom Anderson

COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

CITY STAFF & OTHERS: Marcia Larson and Lolly Randall

CALL TO ORDER:

Wendy Kvale called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS – New member Bethany Wesley introduced herself and the Commissioners all introduced themselves.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA: No amendments were made

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 8, 2020 MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Prim, to approve the December 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes as written. Motion carried.

POLICIES REVIEW/ACTION

The Commissioners received copies of the policies that have been reviewed in 2020. The Advertising Policy is still being reviewed by the City Attorney. Marcia recommends approving the policy updates as presented. The Advertising Policy can be approved pending the City Attorney's recommendation of it.

Wesley pointed out some discrepancies in the amenity donation policy regarding the length of time the city guarantees the tree. She also pointed out on the forms and will email the changes to Marcia and Lolly.

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Wesley, to approve the policies with corrections stated above. Motion carried.

PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT – MT. VIEW MEADOWS

Marcia reviewed the concept plan with the Commissioners that has been submitted by Mitch Ratio. The plan is for a park that will meet the parkland dedication requirement for a private development. The City Council has approved the Development Agreement that includes this park. The plan is that the park will be completed in the first phase of the housing development which could be three to five years. The developer will be responsible for the park property and maintenance until the

park is complete. The Parks & Recreation Commission, along with the Park Director will approve the final design of the park. Marcia will invite Mitch Ratio to a future Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Discussed that this is the first time the park will already be developed before it is handed over to the city. Based on the plan submitted, it appears Mitch has gone above and beyond what is required for the parkland dedication requirement. The park is to be completed after Phase 1 of the multi-family housing development is complete. Marcia screen shared the concept designed of the development that showed the location of the park. Discussed that there are no restrooms/building. Marcia pointed out that there are other city parks that don't have restrooms and the city provides porta johns. Discussed having an area left for the potential for the city to build restrooms in the future.

COVID/POLICY UPDATES

Marcia explain the current COVID policy/updates that affect the Park and Recreation Department. As of December 31st, all of the outdoor rinks have been opened but the warming houses will not be opened this year. The warm weather also affecting the timing of opening the rinks. The rink area was expanded at City Park. Staff will not enforce the COVID policies but the rinks have been signed appropriately. Staff added more benches to the rinks.

The winter disc golf course is open with 14 holes. Staff is working on promoting the course. They are requesting to play leagues but they are not allowed by the Governor's orders until January 14th. Marcia will do more research to create a policy when a league uses the city property to hold games/tournaments such as the pickle ball and the disc golfers. The trails have had a lot of use but unfortunately the Montebello ski trail has had a lot of dog walkers and fat tire bikes. City will hold cross country ski lessons and snow shoeing event on February 27th at North County Park.

Park facility rentals will open online March 2nd. The hope is that COVID-19 restrictions will be shifted to allow groups of greater than ten to socialize/congregate. The marina rentals went live January 6th and currently three slips are rented. The city will be adding security measures to the docks. There are 20 slips and 5 of those are day docks. Discussed doing weekend rentals but the preference would be for the hotels to rent some slips for their customers as they are the ones who would prefer weekend rentals and Marcia has reached out to the hotel managers

Garden plot rentals will also open March 2nd. All of the garden plots were rented last year. Marcia mentioned the empty park on 26th Street that could be turned into garden plots. Looking at expanding the neighborhood garden and will do some upgrade to the Nymore garden.

Marcia explained that the new COVID-19 guidelines came out from the DNR allowing warming houses to be open. It does not seem feasible for the city to open the warming houses at this stage of the season in part due to staff hiring/recruitment.

OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT DISCUSSION

Marcia discussed the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant guidelines, requirements, and that applications are due at the end of March. There is a 50/50 match. Discussed Cameron Park and needing a new building/restrooms. Algoma Park has a concept design, which Marcia shared earlier with the Commissioners. Algoma Park's picnic area, play structure, a basketball court need updating. A shade structure/pavilion and restrooms would be a nice addition to the parks. The grant requires a major recreation component, which would be a pavilion or updated playground

equipment. Project timeline would be 2022 or 2023, the match would have to come from the city's capital improvement funds. Discussed the use of the softball field which is used for neighborhood games or used by church league players. The Commissioners agreed that Algoma would be a good park to use the grant for. Marcia reached out to Kimley-Horn to see what the cost would be to update the concept plan. Marcia would like to focus on gathering neighborhood input rather than general public input. Discussed doing a survey similar to what was done for Gordon Falls Park. Suggested surveying a specific radius of the park. Marcia invited the Commissioners to share any ideas they would like to see in the park. There is also a trail component to the grant. Discussed the need to develop a good trail connect plan.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES:

Wendy Kvale shared that Cameron Park was packed with families sledding this past weekend. People were also ice skating on the lake.

Don Heinonen shared that he hibernates in the winter and enjoys the parks more in the summertime!

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Paul Bunyan Communication gave \$1500 donation/sponsorship for recreation programs.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Fiskevold Gould, to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 P.M.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lolly Randall
Administrative Assistant