

**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kristine Bommersbach, Gwenia Fiskevold Gould, Don Heinonen, Tonya Prim, and Bethany Wesley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim Faver and Tom Anderson

COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Dan Jourdain

CITY STAFF & OTHERS: Marcia Larson, Patrick Hansen, Earl LaMaack, Jamie Anderson, and Joe Czapiewski

CALL TO ORDER:

Bethany Wesley called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Fiskevold Gould to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Fiskevold Gould, to approve the September 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Meeting was opened as C.T. Marhula was speaking at 4:32. Shared his concern about the usage of North Country Park.

MOUNTAINVIEW MEADOWS - MITCH RAUTIO AND MARK FULLER

Mitch Rautio, Developer and Mark Fuller, Freeburg Grund, Inc. presented the final plans for the park proposed for Mountainview Meadows. There is a Developer's Agreement in place regarding parkland dedication for Mountainview Meadows and the Director reported the park as designed meets and surpasses the parkland dedication requirements. Mitch Rautio presented the plans including planned amenities, layout, concept plan, timeline and playground design. The Commission discussed and reviewed the plans.

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Fiskevold Gould to approve the park plans as presented. Motion carried.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS UPDATE – JFC STRATEGIC SERVICE

Joe Czapiewski of JFC Strategic Service was present to update the Commission on the Public Forum (both public and virtual) that was held on October 18th. Joe reported that input was received regarding North Country, City and Brinkman Parks in particular and brought those concepts forward to the Commission for discussion. The ideas presented to the Commission included a third disc golf course at Brinkman versus leaving Brinkman as a more natural area with limited

development. Discussion was held on the merits of each type of program. Options for refurbishing existing courses or adding courses to the County system were also discussed as well as past opinions shared by the neighborhood around Brinkman regarding use and deer hunting. The Commission expressed the need to ensure neighborhood buy-in for a course, based on previous experience.

Discussion was held on North Country Park and for planning if the park is expanded/additional property acquired that the priorities include a dog park and neighborhood-based amenity.

RECREATION UPDATE, JAMIE ANDERSON

Jamie Anderson presented an update on programming and the increase of partnerships and sponsorships that the Recreation department has made in the past year. Jamie also provided updates on grants, donations, and scholarship. There was also discussion of evaluating current programs adding programs and phasing out some of the less popular programs.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATES

The Director provided an update on the Natural Playground Project, noting that the project is complete for the fall. The boulder scramble, stump jumps, log steppers, timber traverse and grassy play mounds have been complete. During the installation of the log steppers a field adjustment was needed to meet the 12" span between the steppers. This adjustment was due to the donated materials being a smaller diameter than originally specified/sought. All diameters in the plan are a range and require some field adjustments.

It was determined that the addition of steppers would not only ensure proper spacing to meet playground safety standards and significantly increase the play value – provide more climbing and stepping routes through the playground. The change order provides for the additional labor, supplies and materials to increase the number of steppers by 16 – the original plan called for 21 at a larger diameter to cover the same area/space within the playground. The Director recommended approving Change Order #1 increasing Frenzel Construction's contract by \$10,000 for the additional work.

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Prim to recommend approval of Change Order #1 increasing Frenzel Construction Contract by \$10,000. Motion carried.

It was also reported the tree removals on 3rd Street were completed and replacement trees planted. Discussed the lack of job applications for the warming house positions. Director reported that other cities are also having recruitment issues and considering not opening the warming houses or limiting hours.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Prim, to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Earl LaMaack
Visitor Experience Lead Representative