

**MINUTES
PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Anderson, Tim Faver, Gwenia Fiskevold Gould, Don Heinonen, Wendy Kvale, and Tonya Prim

MEMBERS ABSENT:

COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

CITY STAFF & OTHERS: Marcia Larson, Jamie Anderson, and Lolly Randall

Introductions were made to Gwenia Fiskevold Gould, the new Commissioner.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

No amendments were made to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2020 MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Prim, to approve the November 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes once the spelling of SEP is changed to CEP. Motion carried.

SPONSORSHIP PACKET/INFORMATION

Jamie Anderson, Recreation Coordinator, shared the 2021 Calendar fundraiser with the Commissioners. She also presented the updated sponsorship packet and a list of potential business/sponsors who it will be mailed to. Reviewed the Platinum Sponsor, Calendar Sponsor, Day Camp Sponsor, and Sponsor Agreement form. Potential sponsors will be able to pick the events they want to sponsor as well as the dollar amount they want to give. Jamie reviewed the levels of sponsorship and the recognition received for each sponsorship level. Reviewed the variety of ways they can pay for their sponsorship. Discussed using material that can be recycled. Also discussed having an opportunity for an individual to donate and not just limit it to businesses. It was also suggested to increase the amount and way to donate when participants are registering for programs.

Larson suggested that the Commissioners get involved in the fundraising for the recreation programs/sponsorships by reaching out to businesses in their networks that might be willing to sponsor. It was suggested to reach out to the Chamber and BDA for donations. Jamie shared the large list of potential sponsors she has already compiled and explained the packets will be mailed out around the first of the year.

There is not a limit on number of sponsors for most programs. Day Camp is limited to the number of sponsors because there are a specific number of weeks and there will only be two calendars printed in 2021 and would like to have one sponsors per calendar.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Larson provided the Parks and Recreation strategic plan for those who did not receive it previously. Discussed implementation of the plan. The department has struggled with staffing part-time and seasonal positions. Attended many events in 2019 such as the travel show and several Bemidji State University events. With covid-19, there have been some online meetings that Recreation staff has attended. Worked on the social media presence. Reviewed the strategies that have been completed along with those that continue to be worked on. BSU currently use the Nice Ride bikes, so there will not be any bike rental through the city.

Larson confirmed that the marketing intern has monetary compensation.

Discussed the need for a recreational facility and looking at partnerships. Discussed the tourist information center and what might go in the building along with Visit Bemidji. Discussed the Wellness Sanford Center possibility. Discussed looking at any new potential stakeholders that have not been met with.

Larson and the Commissioners will continue to look at the strategic plan and make the necessary changes/additions.

COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

Discussed Bethany Wesley's application to the Park & Recreation Commission. This appointment would fill the final empty seat on the Commission.

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Fiskevold Gould, to approve Bethany Wesley's application and move it forward to the City Council for approval. Motion carried.

Larson will put Bethany Wesley's appointment on the agenda for City Council approval at their December 21st meeting.

2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

Motion by Heinonen, seconded by Anderson, to approve the 2021 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting schedule as submitted. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Larson posed the questions of the Commissioners to answer what is their favorite park amenity or what is their park priority for 2021.

Fiskevold Gould shared that she really enjoys Diamond Point Park and how the trails connect to other parks. She asked about creating an ice rink on the lake at the waterfront/Paul Bunyan Park. Larson explained that part of the problem with that is the busy sliding hill and there is a lot of irrigation that could be problematic. The city has not typically put rinks where there is not a warming house and there are safety issues with city equipment on the lake.

Heinonen suggested putting money in the CIP to be used for playground equipment at the South Shore beach.

Gordon Falls Park is completed except for the historic signage and some landscaping.

Prim shared that her family did bike rides to Paul Bunyan Park and enjoyed riding on the trails. She suggested more shade structures at Paul Bunyan Park and South Shore Beach.

Kvale shared that it would be nice to expand the disc golf courses to other parks. She is excited for the natural playground at North Country Park.

Prim asked about the Mitch Ratio development. Larson will send the Commissioners an email that shows where his property is. He is building a housing development that includes parkland dedication fee that is equivalent to \$163,000 or develop a 3.25 acre park. Ratio plans to fully develop the park before handing it over to the city. His vision for the park in his development includes a trail that connects to the nearby Paul Bunyan trail. Also included in his vision is a pleasure rink, sledding hill, playfields, small playground, and a parking lot. There may be a building located in the park. According to his plan, the park would be completed within five years. Larson has extended an invitation to Ratio to share his park vision with the Commission.

Larson gave a brief explanation of the parkland dedication ordinance.

Regarding the warming houses, Larson is waiting to see if there is more clarification from the Governor's office and see what happens after December 18th. The issue is the intent of the current order that states don't gather with people outside of your home. So parks has decided to wait on flooding ice rinks, the weather has not allowed flooding at this time as it's been too warm to make ice. The city attorney also suggested not opening the outdoor rinks.

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