

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING**  
**DECEMBER 11, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tina Kaney, Mary Auger, Don Heinonen, Tom Anderson, Annette Meyer, and Tonya Prim

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Wendy Kvale

**COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:**

**CITY STAFF & OTHERS:** Marcia Larson and Lolly Randall

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Tina Kaney called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 13, 2018 MEETING MINUTES:**

**Motion by Auger, seconded by Meyer, to approve the November 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes with the following change “changing the name back to Parks & Recreation Commission. Motion carried.**

**GORDON FALLS PARK – NEIGHBORHOOD USER SURVEY**

Marcia reviewed the results of the Gordon Falls Park Neighborhood Survey with the Commissioners. Some interesting responses were: the majority of the comments were submitted by the 61 and older residents. Most of the people visited the park in the afternoon and 60% of the respondents went to the park with children to play on the playground. There was not a clear response on the full court basketball versus the half court basketball. There were a lot of comments and concerns about the safety in the park. Bike parking was high among the responses.

Reviewed the ideas from the Master Park Plan. The park is less than an acre so the plan needs to be reflective of the limited space so a basketball half court makes more sense. A parking lot is not necessarily needed. Currently the security lighting is provided by street lights only. Landscaping along the alley side can help prevent people from driving through the park and/or parking on the grass in the park. Funding for the project can come from a grant, parkland dedication, or CIP. There is the possibility of getting assistance from the Rotary Club.

Marcia will look into how many calls the police get to the park or general area along with calls to other parks for comparison purposes. Discussed upgrading the landscaping and picnic area. Discussed doing more programming in the park and getting the neighbors involved in the building of the park. Discussed a pathway through the park for folks walking to the park or walking their dogs and light the area. Discussed putting soccer nets in the green space area. Marcia will bring layouts of the park to the next meeting and invited the Commissioners to share any ideas they may have. Discussed using low lighting along the path so they won't shine on the basketball court.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

Marcia reviewed the completed and the ongoing work on the various strategies in the plan. Many of the marketing items did not get completed because the department was unable to hire a marketing intern.

## **COMMISSIONER UPDATE**

The turnaround at South Shore will be completed in 2019. The City Engineering Department is developing the design so Marcia will get an update and report back to the Commission.

Hockey Day is recruiting their own volunteers and have sponsors. The city has not been too involved other than assisting when asked.

Discussed the large electric Christmas tree put in by Jaycees Paul Bunyan park, many people have commented that they like it and it has brought more people to the park. The tree lights up and plays music for 15 minutes every hour.

Discussed the amount of salt used by the city on the streets and public sidewalks.

## **DIRECTOR UPDATE**

The outdoor rinks will hopefully be opened next week.

Marcia will meet with Daniel Roberts within the next week for the musical instruments for Paul Bunyan Park. He has raised all the money he needs so Marcia plans to order the equipment this year.

Meeting was held regarding biking and/or bike share program within Bemidji. Several groups met and will plan to develop a steering committee to fine tune a bike plan for Bemidji. Discussed the importance of communicating to the bikers the rules of the road, for example not to ride on the sidewalks. They plan to have bike workshops to educate.

Discussed electric scooters and the variety of problems they can cause a community.

The Carnegie Building – there is the possibility of having renters in the basement if the change order to finish the basement off is approved by the City Council.

The ice study is near completion and will be presented to the City Council at their work session on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Meyer, seconded by Auger, to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lolly Randall  
Administrative Assistant