

**MINUTES
PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 13, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Heinonen, Wendy Kvale, Annette Meyer, and Tonya Prim

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary Auger, Tom Anderson, and Tina Kaney

COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

CITY STAFF & OTHERS: Daniel Roberts, Marcia Larson and Lolly Randall

CALL TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 13, 2018 MINUTES:

Motion by Prim, seconded by Meyer, to approve the February 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes as written. Motion carried.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – MUSIC PARK BY DANIEL ROBERTS

Daniel Roberts is a member of the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout and presented his Eagle Scout project idea to the Commissioners. He would like approval to move forward with planning and fundraising for his project. He would like to have a musical park installed at Paul Bunyan Park, alongside the Inclusive Playground. On an Eagle Scout camping trip in Utah, Daniel was able to visit a musical park. He explained how these parks help children with special sensory needs. He would have other Eagle Scouts help with the installation but he would be the project lead since it is his project.

Concerned was raised about the noise level carrying across the lake and if that might bother residents. Daniel is planning to do fundraising through community contributions. He would like the city to help out with the fall surface, shipping and installation of the playground. Marcia will look into the surfacing options.

Landscape Structure is the company that built the inclusive playground and they build music parks as well. This is the company Daniel would select for the equipment if he gets the go ahead for the project. Daniel needs written consent from the Parks & Recreation Commissioners allowing him to move forward with fundraising for the project

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Prim to approve Daniel Robert's Concept of the Musical Playground. Motion carried.

The Commissioners requested more information on location, cost of installation and surfacing. Marcia will notify Daniel when it is appropriate to move forward with fundraising.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Marcia shared the results of the March 7th work session. Goals, objectives, and timelines were established. Once the plan is finalized, it will need approval by Parks & Recreation Commission at the April meeting and then it will be presented to the City Council.

MINNESOTA GREEN CORPS HOST SITE APPLICATION

Marcia reviewed the previous Green Corp experience with Nicole and all of the work she completed in the urban forestry.

Marcia reported that she will be submitting a host site application for another Green Corp member. The focus project would be to evaluate and research options for implementation of a bike share/rental program in the Bemidji community and on BSU campus. The Green Corp member would create a strategy for implementing a bike share/rental system and they would facilitate, create, and implement a wayfinding plan for trail users/commuters. They would work to increase biking and walking by encouraging residents to walk and lead bike rides and facilitate learn to ride classes. This would meet some of the strategic goals and objectives as well.

Marcia will provide the supervision and their office will be housed at the Public Works building.

Motion by Heinonen, second by Prim, to support Marcia submitting a Minnesota Green Corp host site application. Motion Carried.

DIRECTOR UPDATE

SEASONAL POSITIONS – Marcia reported that the jobs have been posted.

BIRDS BEES BUTTERFLIES – this group has started to meet this year. The focus of the group is to promote planting of the top ten native plants. There will be some training workshops to learn more about this that will run through the recreation department. There will be brochures at the local nurseries. Looking at the Sanford campus to see if there is a possibility of native plantings there. The group will be meeting with the Rotary club. There will be a bird city festival at Cameron Park at the end of June. The Watermark Art Center is looking at doing some native plantings as well. The group is available to assist some of the businesses that are interested in planting these native plants in their gardens. Garden club is having their plant sale on May 19th, at the fairgrounds and will selling native plants and seed.

PARKS AND RECREATION ANNUAL REPORT – Marcia reviewed the report with the Commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Meyer, seconded by Prim, to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lolly Randall
Administrative Assistant