

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
April 14, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kristine Bommersbach, Tim Faver, Gwenia Fiskevold Gould, Tonya Prim, and Bethany Wesley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Anderson and Don Heinonen.

COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: CITY STAFF & OTHERS: Joe Czapiewski, Marcia Larson, Jamie Anderson, Kelby Krabbenhoft, Carter Teft, David Towley, and Johnathon Brisk

CALL TO ORDER:

Bethany Wesley called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:

Chair Wesley indicated that a request was received to remove item 7 from the agenda.

Motion was made by Faver, seconded by Bommersbach to approve the agenda with the removal of item 7 - Request to Name Baseball Field.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 14, 2023 MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Prim, seconded by Faver, to approve the March 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes as written. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Appearance.

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY – LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES PROJECT

BSU Students, Kelby Krabbenhoft, Carter Teft, and Johnathon Brisk presented their CAPSTONE project to the Commission. The goal to use all their skills they have learned in the Project Management course and complete a community project. They presented the goals, design, materials, construction and general process of building three Little Free Libraries to be placed in city parks.

The Commission discussed the Capstone Project and locations in the parks. The students indicated they would be working on a marketing for book donations. The Commission expressed their appreciation for the community project.

STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTATION/REVIEW

Joe Czapiewski, JFC Strategies, reviewed the powerpoint presentation for the City Council meeting on April 16, 2023. Commissioners discussed the presentation of the Strategic Plan and organized the presentation.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Bommersbach updated and invited the Parks and Recreation Department to attend or consider attending the Beltrami County Wellness expo on June 21st from 11am-2pm

DIRECTOR'S UPDATES

Outdoor Program Center

The Director updated the Commission on a recent discussion with Travis Green and the Gillette Center/OPC Management team on the Outdoor Program Center. The lease agreement ends on June 30, 2023 and due to financial concerns BSU is requesting either no or reduced rent from July through the end of the year. Staff has met with BSU in November and once again April 12th to discuss short term and long-term options. At this time, staff is recommending a committee within the Parks and Recreation Committee assist with the long-term discussion. Staff discussed options for short-term solutions such as traded services (lifeguarding, training or programmatic professional services) to extend the lease/amendment until the end of this summer. As this is a valued partnership. BSU plans to review some options and propose a short-term solution for July -September. All updates to the lease would also need Council action.

The Commission discuss the history of the outdoor program center, how it was established in the park and the original vision, which included a 12 month use building.

The Director updated the Commission on the Solar Project, No Mow May and the Outdoor Recreation Grant.

The Director also updated the Commission on the resignation of the Parks Superintendent. The Commission discussed the impact of the resignation on the department as well as the need for additional staff for the maintenance and safety in the parks. The Director stated the last two superintendents both said the department is understaffed and need two more full-time parks maintenance to properly maintain the system.

The Commission discussed volunteer opportunities for the Commissioners in the parks.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Faver, seconded by Bommersbach, to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Larson
Parks and Recreation Director