

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
LITTLE CANADA, MINNESOTA**

SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a regular meeting of the City Council of Little Canada, Minnesota was convened on the 1st day of September 2022 in the Council Chambers of the City Center located at 515 Little Canada Road in said City.

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the following members of the Parks & Recreation Commission were present at roll call:

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION: Abruzzese, Chu, Horwath, Hipp, Miller, Mui, and Schletty.

ALSO PRESENT: Parks & Rec/Community Services Director Bryce Shearen and Recreation Coordinator Sierra Hietala.

MINUTES

Commissioner Horwath made a motion to approve the August 4, 2022, Parks & Recreation Commission minutes as submitted. Commissioner Abruzzese seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

PARKS AND RECREATION MISSION STATEMENT

Commissioner Abruzzese read the parks and recreation mission statement.

The Commissioners provided input on the ribbon cutting that occurred at Rondo Park prior to this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

The Commissioners provided input on the ribbon cutting that occurred at Rondeau Park prior to this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: COMMISSIONER TERMS AND REAPPOINTMENT PROCESS

The Parks & Rec Director reviewed the current terms for Commission members and also provided details on the reappointment process.

Chair Miller commented that he will be running for City Council in the upcoming election.

The Parks & Rec Director reviewed the term limits. He stated that they have begun to advertise for commissions and reviewed the application process.

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Chair Miller asked for an update on youth members.

The Parks & Rec Director stated that the Park and Recreation Commission does not yet have a youth applicant. He stated that staff will begin to solicit applications from high school students.

NEW BUSINESS: DOG PARK SITE FURNISHINGS

The Parks & Rec Director stated that the temporary dog park has been a success and staff continues to hear requests. He noted that while they continue to find a location for a permanent location, perhaps there are enhancements that could be made to this temporary location. He estimated a cost of \$5,000 to \$7,000 to add some features at the dog park.

Chair Miller asked if the intent would be to purchase multiple pieces at once or purchase one item at a time to see how well they are received.

The Parks & Rec Director stated that the intent would be to purchase three or four items at one time.

The Recreation Coordinator stated that some companies sell the items in sets of three or four items as well.

Commissioner Mui stated that as a user of the dog park, the most important feature at dog parks is seating for people. He stated that it would also be nice to have a water feature for dogs to drink.

The Parks & Rec Director provided details on the temporary dog park which is a hockey rink with a small bench.

Commissioner Horwath stated that there is a bench listed and perhaps that could be a priority.

Commissioner Hipp stated that perhaps a few benches. She asked how this came about.

The Parks & Rec Director stated that this was identified in the master plan but because there was not a permanent location identified it was not a top priority. He stated that with a cost of around \$5,000, this could be a low-cost item that would add a desired amenity that residents have been requesting recently. He stated that he is working on the CIP and therefore thought it would be an appropriate time to discuss the item so that it could be incorporated into the plan

Horwath introduced the following motion:

RECOMMENDING CITY STAFF ADD DOG PARK SITE FURNISHINGS TO THE CIP

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The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Schletty.

Ayes (7). Nays (0). Motion passed.

RECREATION COORDINATION UPDATES

The Recreation Coordinator provided an update on recent events and upcoming activities and events. She also noted the sponsorship opportunity for those that wish to participate in programming but cannot afford the cost.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Abruzzese stated that her family have been to Rondeau quite a few times per week since the park reopened and it is great to see the community engagement at the park and everyone enjoying the park.

Chair Miller echoed those comments noting the addition of the bike rack as well. He asked where and when the next bike rack would be installed.

The Parks & Rec Director replied that the next bike rack will be installed at City Hall this fall. He noted that the racks for Pioneer Park and Gervais Mill will occur with those park projects. He stated that he did purchase additional bike racks to go in locations other than parks and noted that almost all the bike racks will be installed in the next month.

Chair Miller commented that there was great participation from the public this summer for the different programming and events.

Commissioner Horwath stated that he is a mountain biker and has friends on the Roseville mountain bike team. He commented that while there are trails in other communities, that amenity is lacking in Little Canada and its immediate neighbors. He believed that the City and surrounding communities should attempt to find a way to serve that biking population.

The Parks & Rec Director replied that he has a work order to plan out a trail in the area where they have the goats. He recognized that it would not be a large trail because of the lack of space in the overall community but believed it would be a good space for trails.

Commissioner Horwath provided potential suggestions around Lake Vadnais, that would be partnership opportunities with other communities.

Commissioner Chu commented that she has noticed multi-use trails in other communities that she enjoys.

Commissioner Horwath noted a community that has crossing trails, which is a nice feature. He cautioned that multi-use trails may be unsafe because people may not always be watching for mountain bikers.

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Commissioner Hipp commented on her recent trail experience. She asked for details on the Gervais Mill project. She asked if the plants would be repurposed.

The Parks & Rec Director provided a brief overview of the entrance project. He stated that while there are no plans to repurpose the plants, they will be repurposing the stones. He commented that the plants will be removed and replaced with new plantings.

Commissioner Hipp stated that she would be willing to relocate those plantings to other entrance.

The Parks & Rec Director noted that he would follow up with Commissioner Hipp and mentioned that there is also a planting plan for the other entrance.

Commissioner Mui commented on the difficulty he has had with buckthorn removal this past summer and asked for input.

The Parks & Rec Director stated that the City has buckthorn removal tools that can be signed out by residents for use. He stated that the City budgets for buckthorn removal each year on City property.

Commissioner Schletty asked the timeline for the benches and shelter at Rondeau Park.

The Parks & Rec Director replied that the pavilion structure was ordered last December and was delayed. He stated that the most recent update he received was that the item would be shipped in early September but noted that the month prior he was told it would ship in August. He hoped that the item would be able to be installed this fall. He noted that the benches are also supposed to be shipped soon. He noted that solar lighting was also budgeted for but they have not yet been able to get that product either and hoped to have those in October.

UPDATES: PIONEER PARK UPDATE

The Parks & Rec Director anticipated that they would finalize the plans and specifications this fall and then begin to look at playground and shelter options. He stated that they did budget funds to do some work this fall, such as boring a water line for the water fountain and water feature. He stated that they would also stub another connection near the basketball/tennis court area.

Commissioner Hipp noted that a resident approached her asking about lower basketball hoops.

The Parks & Rec Director replied that the newer hoops are adjustable, residents simply need to call City staff to make the request and staff will lower or raise the hoop level.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.