

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

**FEBRUARY 2, 2023**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a regular meeting of the City Council of Little Canada, Minnesota was convened on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2023 in the Council Chambers of the City Center located at 515 Little Canada Road in said City.

Chair Howarth 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, Horwath, Mui, Schletty, Williams, and Youth Commissioner Churcher.

**ABSENT:** DeLong Miller

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

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Commissioner Abruzzese made a motion to approve the January 5, 2023 Parks & Recreation Commission minutes as submitted. Commissioner Mui seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS: SIDEWALKS AND TRAILS MAP**

The Parks & Rec Director stated that at the last meeting, the map identifying the gaps was provided to the Commission and welcomed any additional comments.

Chair Horwath referenced the proposed sidewalk for Labore Road and noted that he supports that recommendation as he notices a lot of people walking along that road. He referenced the section on Payne Avenue north to County Road D, which is listed to be deleted and confirmed the alternate route.

The Parks & Rec Director commented that funds have been budgeted for a feasibility study for Labore Road, which will include open houses and neighborhood meetings to engage the public in that process.

Commissioner Abruzzese commented that she can see the priority in providing links, but also wants to prioritize areas without walkways where pedestrians are walking on roads. She noted that there are places, such as Edgerton, where people are putting their trash containers where the pedestrians should be.

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Chair Horwath stated that they could use education to remind residents not to put trash containers in the street. He stated that a secondary option for pedestrians to use Payne Avenue would be an alternative to Edgerton.

Commissioner Williams stated that she has noticed people walking in the grass in the north end at Pioneer and stated that it would be nice to have a sidewalk in that area that goes around the tennis courts.

Commissioner Hipp commented that people can walk all the way around Pioneer, even during the winter. She noted an area near Nadeau Wildlife Area, which appears to have a proposed trail.

The Parks & Rec Director commented that has been in the plans for years.

Commissioner Hipp stated that she likes that Edgerton will be connected to Payne. She also liked the sidewalk proposed for Labore.

Chair Horwath referenced the trail near the Fire Station, noting that there had been previous discussion about a potential trail bridge crossing and asked if that has made momentum.

The Parks & Rec Director commented that has been identified, but it would have to be a huge bridge. He stated that would be more of a state or federally funded project and noted that the bridge would most likely not be replaced for another 30 years.

Student Representative Churcher asked if there are plans to add a trail along Demont towards the middle school.

The Parks & Rec Director replied that there are not plans, other than what exists.

Student Representative Churcher commented that many students walk that way to the school and often fall on the hills of the homes.

The Parks & Rec Director appreciated the input and stated that could be a consideration for a future trail.

Commissioner Abruzzese noted that reminds her of discussion related to paths to the elementary school and asked if that is on the list.

The Parks & Rec Director replied that the trail exists but needs some work as it is not ADA accessible. He noted that ADA compliance is not required but staff does plan to maintain that area more.

Commissioner Schletty asked if there was an update on the connection with Edgerton over with the development of the townhomes. He asked the timeline for that connection.

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The Parks & Rec Director replied that the connection would hinge on when the Lennar development moves forward. He stated that the trail was shifted further from the homeowner that spoke with concern and the new alignment better fits. He believed that 2024 would be realistic for the trail to be completed.

**OLD BUSINESS: OTHER**

Commissioner Mui asked if they are going to choose focal points for the logos at this meeting.

The Parks & Rec Director replied that item is not on the agenda for this meeting as staff would like to bring some focal points forward to begin the discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS: RECREATION COORDINATOR UPDATE**

The Recreation Coordinator highlighted upcoming events, activities, and programing opportunities.

Chair Horwath commented on the great quality of programing noting that he is impressed each time he sees the flyers. He commended the Recreation Coordinator for the excellent job she continues to do with programing for all ages.

**REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Hipp encouraged people to use Spooner Park for snowshoeing and noted that Pioneer Park has clear trails for walkers.

The Recreation Coordinator provided details on how residents can rent snowshoes through the City.

Chair Horwath thanked the LCRA for their contribution that was used to purchase the youth snowshoes.

Commissioner Williams commented that she has enjoyed walking in the parks and has used grips on her boots for the slippery times.

Commissioner Schletty stated that he has gone by the new overlook at Gervais Mill and is excited to explore that in the spring. He noticed bike racks in different places and was glad to see those out in the community.

Commissioner Abruzzese commented that she is excited to explore more parks in the spring when temperatures are warmer.

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The Recreation Coordinator stated that they are in the process of a website redesign and provided some details. She noted that the new website should roll out in early April.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Staple

*TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*