

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

March 2, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a regular meeting of the City Council of Little Canada, Minnesota was convened on the 2nd day of March, 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: Delong Miller, Hipp, Horwath, Mui, Schletty, Williams, and Youth Commissioner Churcher.

ABSENT: Abruzzese

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

MINUTES

Commissioner Mui made a motion to approve the February 2, 2023 Parks & Recreation Commission minutes as submitted. Commissioner Hipp seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS: PIONEER PARK UPDATE

The Parks & Rec Director stated that during the winter months staff has been working on the logistics and purchase of equipment to prepare for the construction season and provided a brief update. He provided more details on the water theme that will be tied into the design of different elements. He also provided details on the entrance kiosk and signage, noting that he will bring some of the materials forward to the Commission for review before the display is finalized.

Commissioner Hipp asked if they would be talking about a cross-country ski loop around the park in the future.

The Parks & Rec Director replied that the priorities for the park have been identified and reviewed the potential timing of some of those items. He did not think that loop was high in priority but noted that it is on the list and as they move forward, they would keep that in mind.

NEW BUSINESS: TRAIL EASEMENT ACQUISITION

The Parks & Rec Director referenced the Lennar development that will bring 178 new townhomes to the area. He reviewed the proposed trail route that would eventually connect to

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the Thunder Bay trail. He stated that they are asking for input from the Commission on the alignment to ensure it meets the goals and needs of the community. He provided details on the park dedication fees that would be paid by this development and noted that funding would not be a concern for this proposed action. He asked if the Commission is interested in pursuing the easement to provide an ADA-compliant trail connection.

Commissioner Schletty commented that there are some older residents in that area and therefore ADA compliance would be a benefit.

Commissioner Schletty commented that there is no existing sidewalk on that side of the street.

The Parks & Rec Director referenced the plans shown in the packet. He noted that the sidewalk currently ends at Desoto and Allen and would transition to a trail through the Lennar project and to the east. He noted that the trail would be eight feet of bituminous, whereas the sidewalk is six feet in width.

Chair Horwath asked for details on the alignment and what would connect with the street.

The Parks & Rec Director confirmed that the existing driveway would be eliminated through this project. He noted that the trail could have run through that area, but it would not be ADA-compliant. He confirmed that the area would be grass and plantings.

Chair Horwath commented that he is pleased to see that would be eliminated along with people crossing where there is not a crossing and directing that pedestrian traffic to a crossing.

Commissioner Mui referenced County Road D East and asked if there would be a concern with the fast speed of vehicles and pedestrians.

The Parks & Rec Director replied that this trail would not connect to County Road D. He provided more details on the path of the trail as proposed.

Chair Horwath asked about the current thought on how traffic would be managed on Edgerton Street.

Parks & Rec Director replied that they will be using a marked, at grade crossing at a minimum but believed there would be additional improvements. He noted that engineering is still reviewing plans.

Commissioner Mui referenced an existing home on Payne Avenue and asked if there would be plantings to ensure the privacy of those residents.

Parks & Rec Director confirmed that was a concern of the resident and the agreement identified additional planting to provide acceptable screening.

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Commissioner Mui asked if there is another property owner on the east where the trail would be constructed on private property.

Parks & Rec Director stated that there is an easement on that property and the trail will be constructed within that easement.

Hipp introduced the following motion:

RECOMMENDING THAT THE CITY COUNCIL MOVE FORWARD WITH THE EASEMENT ACQUISITION PROCESS

The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Schletty.
Ayes (7). Nays (0). Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS: LCRA SUBSIDY & BEHLES SCHOLARSHIP

Parks & Rec Director provided background information on the LCRA subsidy for programming, noting that the LCRA subsidizes the programming by 25 percent. He stated that the Behles Scholarship of \$5,000 was donated in 2015 and noted the current balance of \$4,157. He stated that the scholarship helps families to participate in programs that may not otherwise be able to participate. He encouraged those that would like to participate in programming but do not have the funds to reach out to the City. He clarified that the scholarship is available for youth.

Commissioner Hipp asked if there is a demand for adult subsidies.

Parks & Rec Director confirmed that there would be demand for that as well, as adult programming typically costs more.

The Recreation Coordinator also agreed that there would be a demand for adult/senior programming.

Chair Horwath asked if perhaps LCRA would be interested in providing a senior subsidy.

Parks & Rec Director explained that the mission of the LCRA is to help the youth of the community and therefore did not believe that would align with that mission.

Commissioner Schletty asked and received confirmation that the City would be open to a scholarship for seniors if a resident were to make that donation.

NEW BUSINESS: RECREATION COORDINATOR UPDATE

The Recreation Coordinator highlighted upcoming events and activities. She also provided details on the upcoming programming for youth and adults.

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REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Williams stated that she assisted in serving lunch to the seniors on Valentine's Day with the Recreation Coordinator. She stated that it has also been nice to see the ice sculptures/formations from the aerator during the winter at Gervais Mill.

Commissioner Hipp thanked staff for continuing to groom/maintain the winter trails.

Chair Horwath commented that the trails have been in good shape and noticed dredging in the pond on Arcade. He stated that the trail in the Lennar development is exciting.

Commissioner Schletty echoed the comments on the great maintenance of the trails during the winter.

UPDATES

The Parks & Rec Director stated that Ramsey County is leading an effort to develop a long-range plan that will address transportation needs for people of all abilities. He stated that phase one of engagement has begun with an online survey and two virtual meetings where people can gain information and ask questions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.