

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

**April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission of the City of Little Canada, Minnesota, was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April in the Council Chambers of the City Center located at 515 Little Canada Road East in said city.

Chair Dave Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the following members of the commission were present:

MEMBERS PRESENT:      Ms. Anna Abruzzese  
                                 Ms. Rose Chu  
                                 Ms. Sharen Darling  
                                 Mr. Ron Horwath  
                                 Mr. Dave Miller  
                                 Mr. Tom Ray  
                                 Mr. Peter Schletty

ALSO PRESENT:              Mr. Bryce Shearen, Parks and Recreation  
   and Community Services Manager  
                                 Ms. Vanessa Van Alstine, Cable TV Prod.

**MINUTES**

Horwath made a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Ray seconded the motion. The motion passed 7 – 0.

The Community Services Manager stated Councilman Fischer and the City Administrator would now be attending meetings on an as-needed basis. Chair Miller thanked Councilman Fischer and the City Administrator for their help over the past year.

**PARKS  
MASTER  
PLAN  
UPDATE**

The Community Services Manager reported the joint workshop with SEH had gone very well. He explained the meeting focused on the priorities set forth in the plan and their implementation over the next 20 years. The Community Services Manager stated staff had asked SEH to have a new draft prepared by April 18, giving the Commission and Council a couple of weeks to review the changes. He explained the Commission could act on approval of the plan at the May meeting, and the Council could hold a public hearing on the Parks Master Plan in June.

**MINUTES  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
April 5, 2018**

**POWERLINE  
VEGETATION  
REMOVAL**

The Community Services Manager reported staff was receiving many calls about the vegetation removal on the powerline trail. He explained he wanted the Commission to be well informed on this issue before moving forward with neighborhood meetings. The Community Services Manager stated he was working to put together some information from Xcel, and he would like to have more information next month. Horwath and Chu suggested social media be used to explain why the trees were taken out.

**PIONEER  
PARK TRAIL  
UPDATE**

The Community Services Manager stated he met with the City Engineer to discuss a section of trail in Pioneer Park that was due for replacement this year. He explained the equipment and trucks couldn't go over the bridge in the park or across the pavers near the pavilion. The Community Services Managers stated another trail segment near the playground was also due for repair. With the planned playground update, he thought it would be best to wait to resurface the trail and have Public Works patch the areas this year. Chu suggested there be a plan in place to communicate the changes that will occur in Pioneer Park. She suggested signage at Pioneer Park and social media posts, as well as an online update page. Abruzzese asked what the timetable was for the new website. The Community Services Manager stated it would go live on April 26.

**SPOONER PARK  
FEASIBILITY  
STUDY**

The Community Services Manager reported that the Spooner Park playground is scheduled to be replaced this year, but the odd shape of the containers, lack of a trail to the playground, ADA accessibility, and because it sits on a slope there are many challenges. He recommended the City Engineer conduct a feasibility study to prepare for the construction of the new parking lot, sand volleyball court, and playground. The Community Services Managers stated the cost would be between \$5000 and \$7000. He explained there would likely need to be regrading and this should be examined to figure out the best park layout. Darling asked how the cost would be used. The Community Services Managers stated the City Engineer was a consultant and he would survey the area to see what the best options would be. He explained the study would also include estimated costs of adding and changing trail segments, changing the size of the container and other planned updates. **Horwath made a motion to recommend to the City Council to have the City Engineer conduct the feasibility study in Spooner Park for up to \$7000. Darling seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.** The Community Services Manager stated the feasibility study could be started as soon as the snow was gone.

**MINUTES  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
April 5, 2018**

The Community Services Manager reported, depending on the weather, the Commission could have a parks tour at Spooner Park to visualize the proposed changes. Schletty suggested the Commission also consider going to Thunder Bay Park. Abruzzese explained the Commission should wait until after more information is gathered from Xcel. Horwath stated he would like the Commission to visit park spaces outside of Little Canada to get ideas for park improvements. Chu noted SEH may also have ideas for visiting other parks. **Horwath made a motion to visit Spooner Park for the Parks Tour on Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Schletty seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.** The Community Services Manager stated the Commission would meet at Spooner Park.

The Community Services Manager stated the July meeting fell on July 5<sup>th</sup>. He suggested the meeting be moved to Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. **Horwath made a motion to hold the July meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Ray seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.** The Community Services Manager stated the August meeting was the same date as the Ice Cream Social. He suggested it be moved to Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. **Chair Miller made a motion to hold the August meeting on Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Abruzzese seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**OTHER  
BUSINESS**

The Community Services Manager reported the Market Place Morning Talk topic is Diabetes on April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Bingo Hall.

The Community Services Manager reported summer activity registration is open for youth pickleball, adult pickleball, tennis, baseball, softball, t-ball, archery, and firearm safety. He stated there was a waiting list for the defensive driving class.

The Community Services Manager reported senior exercise takes place year round, every Wednesday and Friday from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. at the Old Fire Hall.

The Community Services Manager reported the LCRA has up to a \$1000 scholarship for graduating high school seniors. Applications can be found online at [lcraonline.org](http://lcraonline.org).

The Community Services Manager stated the City-wide Garage Sale would be May 17, 18, and 19, and registration would begin on April 15, and the event is free. He stated a map will be distributed with a short 100-word description of what each sale includes. The Community Services Manager explained the event is also advertised on social media, craigslist, and the newspapers.

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**April 5, 2018**

**ADJOURN**

Horwath moved the meeting be adjourned

Motion seconded by Chu.

Motion carried 7 – 0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Leibel  
Recording Secretary