

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

JANUARY 9, 2020

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 9th of January 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 5:34 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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Bryce Shearen, Parks and
 Recreation/Community Services Manager
 Ms. Claire Hoffman, Recreation
 Coordinator

~~MINUTES~~ Horwath made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2019 meeting. Ray seconded the motion. The motion passed 7 – 0.

OLD BUSINESS Commissioner Darling stated that there was previous discussion related to the facility center for Pioneer Park. She stated that as the Commission thinks about this in the infant stages, she would like to consider alternative power, such as wind or solar. She noted that they can begin to look for grants that could make those opportunities possible.

Chair Miller agreed that would be a good idea, noting that he has both options for power available as backups at his own home.

**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 9, 2020**

**ELECTION OF
VICE-CHAIR AND
COMMISSION
APPOINTMENTS**

The Community Services Manager reported that the terms for both Commissioners Horwath and Chu are expiring, and both have reapplied for appointment. He stated that the new terms have been approved and would therefore be extended through 2022. He stated that Commissioner Miller was appointed as the Chair for 2020, but a Vice-Chair still needs to be appointed for the Commission.

Ray made a motion to nominate Ron Horwath as Vice-Chair. Chu seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved (Horwath abstained).

**2020 MEETING
SCHEDULE**

The Community Services Manager reported that a draft meeting schedule for 2020 was included in the Commission packet. He noted the schedule change for the January meeting and advised that the schedule is a bit different because of the leap year. He referenced the July 2nd meeting date, which the Commission may want to reschedule.

Commissioner Horwath asked if the recommended date to change to in July would then be July 9th.

The Community Services Manager replied that the Planning Commission meets on the second Thursday of the month. He stated that in the past they have avoided holding two meetings on one night but noted that if the Commission is okay with meeting at 5:30 p.m. on that date, he would not see a conflict.

Horwath made a motion to approve the 2020 schedule to change the July 2nd meeting date to July 9th at 5:30 p.m. Darling seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

UPDATES

The Community Services Manager reported that there has been discussion about perhaps adding a youth member to the Commission and welcomed the youth present in the audience to provide contact information if interested. He stated that the Strategic Plan initiative mentioned getting youth involved in the Commissions, but staff is unsure of what that will look like as of yet.

Commissioner Horwath stated that this is a good time for the Commission to start thinking of the input that they can provide to staff on this topic as well.

The Community Services Manager commented that a lot of the Master Plan was based on feedback received from the youth community. He also

**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 9, 2020**

stated that youth activities are up and running for gymnastics and skating lessons.

The Recreation Coordinator stated that the Morning Talk the previous day was canceled due to a flu outbreak at the center. She stated that they are anticipating a great turnout this year and they have a great lineup of speakers for the year. The Community Services Director stated that a flyer was developed to help provide consistency and alert residents to the upcoming events. The Recreation Coordinator stated that they are attempting to keep the branding consistent which will make these things more recognizable. Commissioner Chu stated that in terms of cultural activities it would help to look at the different communities living within Little Canada, connecting the seniors to the new generation. She provided an example of students presenting something they are working on to the seniors. She explained that understanding between generations helps to create community. Commissioner Horwath stated that the younger generation often connects through online gaming and perhaps it would be a good event to have seniors teach children how to play a card game. The Recreation Coordinator stated that there is a speaker later in the year that will focus on teaching technology to the seniors. Commissioner Horwath used the example of Skype which helps to connect families.

The Community Services Manager reported that the LCRA Ice Fishing Contest will take place on February 1st from noon to 3:00 p.m. He stated that this is the ninth year for the event, which continues to grow.

The Community Services Manager reported that the LCFD Booya will be held on February 1 at the Fire Station and the Ice Fishing Contest.

Commissioner Chu stated that she has no idea what ice fishing entails. She asked if the City has considered offering an Ice Fishing 101 before the event.

The Community Services Manager stated that has been offered in the past and was not very successful. He stated that there are possibly more funding opportunities available for that type of activity that staff could pursue. He noted that perhaps there would be partnership opportunities with local businesses as well.

Chair Miller commented on the diverse population of the community that participates in the event.

The Community Services Manager noted that the ice fishing tickets are available at City Hall, as well as knit hats with the City logo.

**MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 9, 2020**

The Community Services Manager provided an update on the Spooner buckthorn removal, stating that large areas were cut down that the goats could not get to. He stated that the material was also hauled out by the contractor. He noted that this will help to set the stage for when the goats come in for the second year, which they are scheduled to do.

The Community Services Manager displayed a few pictures from the Cookies with Santa event.

The Recreation Coordinator reported that the event took place about one month ago with about 300 people attending, whom had an opportunity to visit with neighbors and enjoy the activities. She thanked all the volunteers that assisted with the event as well as Commissioners Darling and Chu that attended.

Commissioner Chu commented that she enjoyed the event.

ADJOURN

Darling moved the meeting be adjourned

Motion seconded by Horwath

Motion carried 7 – 0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.