

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

**May 3<sup>rd</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 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 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 (left 6:55 p.m.)  
Mr. Peter Schletty

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

**MINUTES**

Darling asked the minutes from the April meeting, on page two, under Spooner Park Feasibility Study be changed to state, “The Community Services Manager reported Spooner Park [playground equipment] is scheduled to be replaced this year.”

**Ray made a motion to approve the minutes with the above changes from the April meeting. Abruzzese seconded the motion.  
The motion passed 7 – 0.**

**PARKS  
MASTER  
PLAN  
UPDATE**

The Community Services Manager reported the final draft of the Parks Master Plan was distributed to the Commission and staff had also reviewed the plan. He explained the plan would help guide the City, Commission, Council and other jurisdictions in making parks and recreation decisions. Chu asked what happens after the plan is approved by the Commission. The Community Services Manager stated the Plan would then go to the City Council for review and acceptance into the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Then the City Council could modify, if needed, and

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adopt the plan. Darling noted that page 5, under Purpose of the Plan, referenced the City of Minneapolis and made a comparison to Little Canada. She explained the plan should not compare Minneapolis to Little Canada because they were not very similar. The Community Services Manager stated while the communities may not be similar the Commission has the same foresight and this was the same language that was used in the 2009 Parks Master Plan. Horwath explained the Minneapolis Parks System was first in the country and was a complimentary comparison. Chu suggested it be mentioned in the plan that Minneapolis Parks System is number one. Ray suggested the wording on page five be changed to add a footnote to say The City of Minneapolis is currently one of the best parks systems in the country.

The Community Services Manager noted the Parks Master Planning process has been something the Commission should be proud of completing. It began in April 2017 when the Commission sent the Request for Proposals out, receiving six responses. After narrowing it down to the top four firms, the Commission, City Council, and Staff sat in on the interviews selecting SEH to write the Plan on June 7. Then each Commission member, City Council member, and other community members had an individual interview to share their thoughts. Multiple community engagement events, workshops, and special meetings followed this. A lot of time and effort was put into this document and the Community Services Manager thought that was evident by the final document.

**Horwath made a motion to recommend the Parks Master Plan be recommended for adoption by the City Council with a footnote on page 5 that states, “The City of Minneapolis currently has one of the best park systems in the country.” Chu seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**GILBERTSON  
FIELD  
UPDATE**

The Community Services Manager reported the renovation is almost complete. He explained the pitching mound was reshaped, the infield and outfield were regraded to meet each other more evenly, and the fencing was being put up. The Community Services Manager shared his appreciation for the Little Canada Recreation Association’s (LCRA) funding the project. Chair Miller asked if the plaques would still be put up to thank to LCRA. The Community Services Manager stated there would be one plaque by each dugout. Chu suggested the history behind the naming of the field and Alan Gilbertson be shared on social media.

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**SPOONER  
PARK  
FEASIBILITY  
STUDY  
UPDATE**

Chair Miller asked for an update on the Spooner Park Feasibility Study and the location of the proposed parking lot. The Community Services Manager stated he would be meeting with the City Engineer to review the proposed areas to be surveyed. He explained the City Engineer would then survey the area within the park. This would help determine feasibility and cost estimates.

**POWERLINE  
TRAIL  
VEGETATION  
UPDATE**

The Community Services Manager reported he was still waiting for more information from Xcel Energy regarding the vegetation removal along the Powerline Trail.

**JUNE PARKS  
TOUR**

Chair Miller suggested the Commission have a Park Tour at 5:30 on June 7<sup>th</sup> before the regularly scheduled meeting. The Community Services Manager thought it would be helpful for the Commission to visit Thunder Bay/Westwinds Park to see the vegetation removal. He noted an email would be sent on where to meet.

**ARBOR DAY  
CEREMONY**

The Community Services Manager reported the Arbor Day Ceremony would take place Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 in Pioneer Park on the Desoto St. Side by the north pond. He invited the Commission to attend.

**OTHER  
BUSINESS**

The Community Services Manager reported the Market Place Morning Talk topic is Container Gardening on May 9<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 explained adult pickleball would have lessons for the first few classes and then play.

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 off-leash dog park at the Demont Avenue Skating Rink would soon be open for the summer season.

The Community Services Manager reported there would be a workout in the park event hosted this summer, but the dates were still to be determined.

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The Community Services Manager reported the new City website launched on April 26<sup>th</sup>. He took the Commission through a tutorial of the website.

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

**ADJOURN**

Horwath moved the meeting be adjourned

Motion seconded by Abruzzese.

Motion carried 6 – 0.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Leibel  
Recording Secretary