

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

MAY 4, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a regular meeting of the City Council of Little Canada, Minnesota was convened on the 4th day of May, 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, DeLong Miller, Hipp, Horwath, Mui, Schletty, and Williams.

ABSENT: Youth Commissioner Churcher

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

MINUTES

Commissioner DeLong Miller noted that it should state the sidewalks and trails meeting was on May 23rd rather than March 23rd.

Commissioner Abruzzese made a motion to approve the April 6, 2023, Parks & Recreation Commission minutes with the noted change. Commissioner DeLong Miller seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS: PIONEER PARK UPDATE

The Parks & Rec Director provided an update on the preconstruction meeting for the project which was held the previous day. He stated that mobilization of equipment could begin as early as May 22nd with perimeter fencing appearing within the next week. He reviewed the anticipated timeline and noted that he will continue providing updates as the project progresses.

Chair Horwath asked if there would be signage for the public.

The Parks & Rec Director confirmed that there will be information on the City website and signage at the park as well. He noted that signs will begin to be placed next week to alert the public to the upcoming project.

Commissioner Williams asked if the parking lot potholes will be filled and when the irrigation would be installed.

MINUTES

PARKS & REC COMMISSION

MAY 4, 2023

The Parks & Rec Director replied that the parking lot is not part of the project, and the irrigation project will most likely be completed during the winter, but the potholes can be filled. He explained that the surface water from the eastern pond will be used for irrigation once the project is completed. He confirmed that there would be a ribbon-cutting event once the project is complete in the all. He commented that perhaps a park tour be held in June or July at Pioneer Park to observe the progress.

OLD BUSINESS: SIDEWALKS AND TRAILS MAP

The Parks & Rec Director provided background information on the initiative to update the sidewalks and trails map. He reviewed the input that had been gathered to create the updated draft. He noted that a Comprehensive Plan amendment will be necessary to adopt the updated document and provided details on the review process necessary.

Commissioner Delong Miller commented that the names of the parks are missing from the map.

The Parks & Rec Director explained those were removed because this is not a parks map.

Commissioner Delong Miller commented that she would like to see County Road B extend fully to Arcade, which would also connect to the regional park and Maplewood trails to create a loop.

Commissioner Mui recognized that this is a technical document but noted that it would be great to see the park logos incorporated.

The Parks & Rec Director reiterated that this is a technical map, but those elements could be added to the parks map.

Mui introduced the following motion:

RECOMMENDING THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SIDEWALKS AND TRAILS MAP AND UPDATED IN THE CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Williams.

Ayes (7). Nays (0). Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS: RECREATION COORDINATOR UPDATE

The Recreation Coordinator highlighted upcoming events and activities. She also reviewed upcoming programming opportunities for youth and adults.

NEW BUSINESS: 2023 PROJECTS

MINUTES

PARKS & REC COMMISSION

MAY 4, 2023

The Parks & Rec Director commented that this was an attempt to list some of the upcoming projects with estimations of completion dates. He noted that if there are projects the group would like to further discuss for the future, they could take a field trip to another community that has those assets to learn more and plan for the future.

Chair Horwath thanked staff for compiling the list.

Commissioner Schletty asked for more information on the Spooner Park electrical updates.

The Parks & Rec Director commented that they have recently learned that the operation is not up to code for Canadian Days and therefore more electrical service is needed. He noted that the item will be completed no later than the end of July in anticipation of Canadian Days. He also provided details on the wood fiber updates, noting that is a maintenance item completed every four years.

Commissioner Delong Miller asked for details on the enhancements to the dog park.

The Parks & Rec Director recognized that the City has been working on larger park projects and the Commission also wanted to include some smaller items, such as the enhancements to the dog park.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Delong Miller commented that she ran around the lake in preparation for the Sap Run and noted that most of the road has been cleaned.

The Recreation Coordinator provided additional details on the preparation and setup for the event.

Commissioner Schletty commented that the parks are looking good. He noted a recent visit to Rondeau Park and commented that the shelter looks very nice.

Commissioner Hipp commented that she also visited Rondeau, noting that the project was very well done. She stated that she also visited Nadeau, which is a quieter park, and commented that she enjoyed the wildlife area. She asked if there was an opening event for Gervais Mill.

The Parks & Rec Director replied that it did not rise to a ribbon-cutting event. He commented that the Commission could walk over there after the meeting to take a photo that could be used in the next newsletter.

Commissioner Hipp commented that the nature play area continues to be well used. She asked if there are any plans to add materials.

MINUTES
PARKS & REC COMMISSION

MAY 4, 2023

The Parks & Rec Director replied that there were trees down after the storm that they have piled for wood chipping, and they will use that material to expand the area.

The Recreation Coordinator noted that the dog park enhancements were discussed at the September 2022 meeting, if Commissioner Delong Miller would like to review those details.

Chair Horwath commented that he has resumed running on the warmer temperature days. He looked forward to the improvements to Labore Road that will make that safer for pedestrians. He was excited about the list of projects for this summer. He recognized the slowdown that will occur for park projects after that and noted that will be an opportunity for the Commission to plan for the future. He stated that he has begun to think about how they can alert the public to the available trail and park connections through signage and suggested that be further discussed in the future.

The Parks & Rec Director stated that design has begun on the Pioneer Park kiosk which will include a map showing the location of the park within the park system. He noted that the design will come back to the Commission for review.

Chair Horwath recognized the work the City has done to expand its parks and trails system and encouraged staff and the Commission to look into organizations that recognize those efforts.

The Parks & Rec Director agreed that a lot has been done in the past six or seven years, which has been recognized by the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA).

Commissioner Williams reported that she visited Thunder Bay and noticed signage prohibiting motor vehicles similar to other parks. She noted that those signs are lacking at Gervais and believed that area would benefit from similar signage as she often encouraged motorized scooters and even a motorcycle.

Chair Horwath commented that could be tricky with the popularity of electric bikes as well.

The Parks & Rec Director confirmed that the signs could be installed and that the group may want to discuss the topic in the future.

Chair Horwath provided input on his experience at the park he works at in Minneapolis. He agreed that no motorized vehicle signage should be installed.

The Parks & Rec Director confirmed the consensus of the Commission to install the no motorized vehicle signage at Gervais Mill.

Commissioner Williams noted that the dredged pond looks great, and she looks forward to the wildflowers blooming.

**MINUTES
PARKS & REC COMMISSION**

MAY 4, 2023

Commissioner Mui commented that he is excited about the pollinators at Thunder Bay and also noted that the dredged pond looks great. He also provided a concept of placing boulders at the entrances to the trails to discourage motorized vehicles.

Chair Horwath noted the challenges that would provide to staff for trail clearing.

Commissioner Abruzzese commented that she and her children have visited Nadeau and she looks forward to getting out to the parks more in the nicer weather.

Commissioner Hipp referenced some of the concepts identified within the report developed through the work with the RCP students. She asked if there should be further discussion related to sponsorship opportunities as that could provide some outside funding for different park elements.

The Parks & Rec Director replied that he would look into that further.

Commissioner Abruzzese stated that perhaps it would be helpful to revisit the park system master plan with the new members and to prepare for the lull ahead.

Commissioner DeLong Miller suggested that the bike racks be featured in the newsletter as she did not readily identify that as bike racks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.