

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

June 6, 2019

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 6th of June 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. Rose Chu
Ms. Sharen Darling
Mr. Ron Horwath
Mr. Tom Ray
Mr. Peter Schletty

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Anna Abruzzesse
Mr. Dave Miller

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Bryce Shearen, Parks and
Recreation/Community Services Manager
Mr. Steve Morelan, Little Canada Fire
Department Asst. Chief

MINUTES

Darling made a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Ray seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 – 0.

**SPOONER PARK
PLAYGROUND
UPDATE**

The Community Services Manager reported the playground and trail upgrade are underway. He explained three trees had been transplanted, and the concrete for the play area had been poured. Chu asked if any signage had been put up. The Community Services Manager stated a few signs had been posted near the playground to let people know a new playground is coming soon, and they can volunteer to help with the build.

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**COMMUNITY
BUILD UPDATE**

The Community Services Manager explained the playground build is about three weeks away. He stated a flyer has been created and online signup is available to help estimate the number of volunteers that will be attending. The Community Services Manager explained the build is planned to take two days, but there is a chance only one day will be needed. He explained more volunteers were needed, but he felt confident there would be enough by the day of the build. The Community Services Manager stated he did have to purchase some supplies for the build including tape measures, levels, and markers. He also noted Canadian Days had offered to supply food and water for the volunteers.

**FIREFIGHTER
HISTORICAL
TRAIL SIGN**

The Community Services Manager explained the Firefighter Historical Trail had been donated in 2005 to honor the firefighters that volunteer their time to protect the community. He stated the trail utilizes a segment of the Water Works Right-of-Way, providing a scenic connection from Centerville Road to Spooner Park and Little Canada Road at McMenemy Street. The Community Services Manager stated the sign at the entrance to the trail was in need of repair and the City had budgeted \$6,000 to fix the sign. He stated the Fire Department had expressed interest in helping fund the sign repair but was also interested in a more comprehensive project to create a Firefighter Memorial Area that would honor the members of the Little Canada Fire Department (LCFD). The Community Services Manager explained there are benches along the trail honoring past Little Canada Fire Chiefs, and this memorial would be to honor firefighters of 20 or more years of service to the department.

The Community Services Manager explained the fire department had created a committee to design a draft concept design. He noted the memorial was designed near the Fire Department lower parking lot, near the trail. The Community Services Manager explained the concept shows a curved Cor-ten sign for the memorial that would take the place of the entrance sign. Darling asked what type of material Cor-ten is. The Community Services Manager explained it was a steel material with a rustic look.

Steve Morelan, the Little Canada Fire Department Assistant Chief explained that the Fire Department had realized the sign needed to be repaired about three years ago, but upon further inspection, the City and the Fire Department realized a new sign was needed because the current fixture was beyond repair. He stated the Fire Department felt that with the cost of a new sign, it may be a good idea to consider a larger memorial project and incorporate the sign into the memorial structure. Morelan explained the lettering for the sign would be cut into the Cor-ten material, and the names of the firefighters would be put on small individual plaques.

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He stated the Fire Department hoped to have the project completed this year, but they didn't have a cost estimate. Morelan noted the Fire Department hoped to keep the project around \$65,000. He explained the Fire Department would pay for the memorial with funds from the charitable gambling and fundraising efforts, but they asked the City to pay for the trail marker. **Ray made a motion to recommend to the Council that the City replace the Firefighter's Historical Trail sign with the proposed Cor-ten material. Chu seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**ASTRONOMY IN
THE PARK**

The Community Services Manager reported the City is partnering with the Minnesota Astronomy Society to host Astronomy in the Park. He explained the event will be held every other Wednesday throughout the summer beginning on June 12 from 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The Community Services Manager explained the event is free, and participants can show up anytime between 6:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

**OTHER
BUSINESS**

The Community Services Manager reported the next Morning Talk would be on June 12 and the topic would be Caring for the Caregiver at Cardigan Ridge. He explained since moving the talks to Cardigan Ridge more people have attended the event each month.

The Community Services Manager reported the Chevy Youth Baseball Test Drive would take place on June 12. He explained this program allows people to test drive vehicles at the baseball field, and in return, they donate baseball items and up to \$500.

The Community Services Manager reported Hotdog with a Deputy would take place on June 25 at Pioneer Park from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

The Community Services Manager reported Movie in the Park would be on August 15 at Spooner Park.

The Community Services Manager reported summer activities were underway, and while youth participation is down, adult participation is up.

The Community Services Manager reported the July meeting would be on July 9, and there would be a Park Tour at 5:30 at Pioneer Park.

The Community Services Manager recapped the park tour at Gervais Mill Park. He explained the Commission had looked at the garden entrance off of Noel Drive. The Community Services Manager stated one thing that could be done is to make the area level with the parking lot to make it more accessible.

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Ray explained there was a lot going on with the Spooner Park Playground update, but asked if there was a project planned for next summer. The Community Services Manager stated there has been a lot of staff changes over the last year, and the budget process would look a little different this year. He explained Pioneer Park would be the next project but was not quite sure how that would look yet.

Horwath asked about the Powerline Trail extension and the Edgerton Street Crossing. The Community Services Manager stated after further investigation, a tunnel would be more challenging than anticipated due to grading, and more costly. He explained the County was supportive of the extension, but staff and the City Council felt an at-grade crossing should be discussed once the other segments were in place.

Chu suggested the Commission take a look at the Parks Master Plan at the next meeting to review the Commission's goals and priorities.

ADJOURN

Darling moved the meeting be adjourned

Motion seconded by Schletty.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Leibel
Recording Secretary