

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

July 9, 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 9th of July 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. Sharen Darling
Mr. Ron Horwath
Mr. Dave Miller
Mr. Tom Ray
Mr. Peter Schletty

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Rose Chu

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Bryce Shearen, Parks and Recreation
and Community Services Manager

MINUTES

Schletty made a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting. Darling seconded the motion. The motion passed 6 – 0.

**COMMUNITY
BUILD RECAP**

The Community Services Manager reported the Community Build at Spooner Park went very well. He explained there were more than 60 volunteers, and they were able to get the playground up in one day. The Community Services Manager thanked the Commission for their work on this project and thanked the Canadian Days Committee for their donation for lunches for the volunteers. He explained the City sent out a press release, explaining the playground was 100% accessible, and KSTP and Kare 11 contacted him to do a story. CTV is also working on a video of the project. The Community Services Manager stated the poured in place rubber would be laid over the next six days, and then the surface would need to dry for about 48 hours. Chair Miller thanked the Community Services Manager for his work on the project. Darling shared her excitement with all of the volunteers and the large range of ages that were

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able to help. Horwath shared that he was pleased that everything was so prepared and organized for the event. Ray suggested an event for the schools to introduce them to the new playground. The Community Services Manager shared a video he had made of the project. He said the grand opening will be on Thursday, August 1 at 5:45 p.m. before the Ice Cream Social.

**SPOONER PARK
BUCKTHORN
REMOVAL**

The Community Services Manager reported the Munch Bunch has been clearing the Buckthorn out of Spooner Park. He explained 28 goats are grazing the areas. The Community Services Manager stated the goats will take a short break during Canadian Days, and resume in about 4 – 5 weeks to eat the regrowth. He explained the goats would also be back next year to clear the buckthorn. The Community Services Manager stated staff would clear the large buckthorn, stumps, and some of the remaining buckthorn later this fall.

**GERVAIS MILL
PARK GARDEN**

The Community Services Manager reported the Recreation Coordinator had created a presentation for conceptual layout options of the Gervais Mill Park Garden. The Community Services Manager explained the park was a natural space in the community that helps clean the stormwater before entering Gervais Lake and the chain of lakes connected to it. He explained that there is also a lot of history in the park including a replica of the grist mill wheel. The Community Services Manager stated the Gervais Mill Park Garden used to be maintained by members of the historical society, but they are no longer able to keep it up. He explained the area is now overgrown and unkept. He noted the garden is also not accessible. The Community Services Manager reminded the Commission this area is an entrance into the park and needs to be re-envisioned. He stated the input he had received from the Commission indicated they wanted the area to be accessible, and have tables and benches. He explained other input included wanting to see color and make the space feel like the entrance to the park. Other feedback included having birdhouses, a natural landscape, and interpretive signs.

The Community Services Manager presented three options for the Gervais Mill Park Garden. The first option was a community garden with a fresh layout, small garden spaces, benches, and native plantings. The Community Services Manager explained this option included moving the entrance sign to be more inviting to walkers coming into the park. The second option was a gathering shelter with a pergola, picnic tables, interpretive signage, and native landscaping. The third option was a creek overlook with an overlook looking out into the creek, interpretive signage, native landscaping, benches, and the grist mill in the center of the entrance. The Community Services Manager stated the Recreation

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Coordinator had put together these options and renderings. He noted the first option was the least expensive and the third option was the most expensive.

The Community Services Manager asked what elements the Commission liked or did not like. Horwath stated his favorite option was the creek overlook, but he was worried there may be issues building it. He also explained that the pergola and picnic tables invite people to the area, but there may not be enough parking nearby to accommodate more visitors at the entrance. Horwath wondered if the area could be more of a quick stopping place. Darling stated she especially liked the benches and sitting areas as a place to stop and relax midwalk, or even to play checkers at. Abruzzese asked about the community garden option. The Community Services Manager explained the Commission could share their input, but a volunteer group could take over the space, or the City could maintain it. Abruzzese stated she liked the community garden feel mixed with the overlook. She explained the homeowners in the area have nice gardens, and having a range of plantings at the entrance would make the area flow with the neighboring homes. Ray stated the overlook would flow well with the other overlooks/fishing piers throughout the park. Schletty noted he would like staff to contact the watershed and also incorporate pollinator-friendly plants.

The Community Services Manager stated he would get some cost estimates to bring to the September meeting. He noted there would not be an August meeting. Darling stated the presentation was a great way to help the Commission brainstorm and noted it was very well done. The Community Services Manager noted City staff was also working to improve the Gervais Mill Park entrance off Edgerton and that work would be done in-house. Abruzzese asked if the unpaved section in Gervais Mill Park could be paved. The Community Services Manager explained the area is low and floods often, so it was not in the Master Plan to be paved, but it was identified for a boardwalk.

**ICE CREAM
SOCIAL**

The Community Services Manager reported the Ice Cream Social would be held on Thursday, August 1 from 6:00 – 8:00 at the Spooner Park Amphitheater. He explained the Little Canada Fire Department would be at the event, as well as the Bazillions family band, and face painting. The Community Services Manager noted Culvers sponsors the custard and root beer floats for the event, and the Little Canada Recreation Association sponsors the entertainment.

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**FARMERS
MARKET**

The Community Services Manager reported the first Farmers Market of the year was held on Monday in the Hardware Hank parking lot. He explained the Market runs until the week before Labor Day. The Community Services Manager stated the market is from 2:30 – 6:00 and there were six vendors at the first one. He stated staff were trying to reenergize the event, and include a variety of options. The Community Services Manager stated the Ramsey County Library and 2020 Census representatives are also looking to get involved at the Farmers Market.

**OTHER
BUSINESS**

The Community Services Manager reported there would not be a meeting in August, but asked the Commission to come to the Spooner Park Playground Grand Opening and the Ice Cream Social.

The Community Services Manager reported the next Morning Talk would be on July 10 and the topic would be the Holocaust. He explained this would take place at Cardigan Ridge.

The Community Services Manager reported Canadian Days would be held August 2 – 4.

The Community Services Manager reported the Movie in the Park, How to Train a Dragon 3, would be on August 15.

The Community Services Manager reported Astronomy in the Park was being held this summer. There would be an event on July 10 from 6:30 – 11:00 and there would be two more events in August.

The Community Services Manager reported Night to Unite would be Wednesday, August 6.

The Community Services Manager reported fall youth activity registration is open for soccer, volleyball, and basketball. Adult softball registration is also open.

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 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Anna Leibel
Recording Secretary