

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

July 10th, 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 10th 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. Rose Chu
 Ms. Sharen Darling
 Mr. Dave Miller
 Mr. Tom Ray
 Mr. Peter Schletty

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Ron Horwath

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Bryce Shearen, Parks and Recreation
 and Community Services Manager
 Mr. Tom Fischer, City Council Member
 Ms. Vanessa Van Alstine, Cable TV Prod.

MINUTES

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

**LANDSCAPING
IN THUNDER
BAY /
WESTWINDS
PARK**

The Community Services Manager reported approximately 35 to 40 people attended the neighborhood meeting at City Hall including Commissioners Darling and Abruzzese. He stated residents had an opportunity to talk about what they would like to see in the future and Xcel was present to discuss the process and gain knowledge on how the neighborhood would like to see this handled in the future. The Community Services Manager explained the meeting went very well and everyone was able to communicate their thoughts on the project and hopefully come away from the meeting with more knowledge about the issue. Abruzzese stated residents were still concerned about what had happened and had a hard time focusing on opportunities for the future. She noted the more clarity that could be provided on boundaries, lot lines and easements

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would help residents moving forward. Darling agreed and mentioned a large map had been provided, but the Xcel representatives still couldn't tell residents exactly where the easement boundaries were. The Community Services Manager stated the City Engineer was working on a map that provided clear color-coded lines to help residents visualize the different boundaries. He explained there would be a note on the map to say these are approximate measurements taken from an aerial satellite, and a property owner would need a survey of their property to be certain where the boundaries are. The Community Services Manager reported comments had been made about vegetation and trees that still had not been removed, but Xcel said there was a dispute regarding an agreement that needed to be resolved before the trees could be taken down. He explained many residents were also worried about stumps that had been left in the area and would pose a large expense to the resident for removal. The Community Services Manager stated Xcel Energy would not come back to take additional vegetation for about two years, at which point they may return and take down some of the vegetation that was left. He stated the area had also been sprayed with an herbicide, and nothing could be grown until next year. Ray asked if Xcel would come back every four years to remove vegetation that was too tall. The Community Services Managers stated that was correct, and typically the removal is much more minimal. He stated the recent federal law changes prompted Xcel to cut down all the vegetation below the powerlines. The Community Services Managers stated the next step was to have Minnesota Native Landscape come in and talk about possible opportunities for the area. Chu thanked the Community Services Manager and City staff for putting the neighborhood meeting together.

**PORTABLE
RESTROOM
SCREENING:
EAGLE SCOUT
PROJECT**

The Community Services Manager reported Hunter Huot was looking to build screening for the portable restrooms at Spooner Park and Pioneer Park for his Eagle Scout Project. He explained this was on the Commission's Priority list for 2018. The Community Services Manager stated staff had reviewed Huot's plan and believe it to be both structurally sound in compliance with the City code, and the proper size for future maintenance. He explained the structure would be built on buckshot rock, with cedar-tone treated lumber. The Community Services Managers stated it would be secured to the ground with wooden stakes, allowing for movement if needed. Huot introduced himself and explained the cost of the project would be \$1500, and he was requesting up to \$500 from the City, up to \$800 from the Little Canada Recreation Association, and he would fundraise for the rest. Darling asked how the restroom would be cleaned. Huot explained there was enough clearance to move the restroom out from the front opening or the top. The Community Services Manager stated the restrooms are typically cleaned on site, and a truck comes to the restroom to clean it out. He noted the buckshot rock could also be more easily removed as opposed to concrete if it needed to be moved. Chair

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Miller asked how much the City had budgeted for this project. The Community Services Manager stated the City had \$5000 budgeted for this project. The Community Services Manager explained this was the amount requested by Huot, but the amount could be changed. Chu suggested signage be placed to recognize the project, or an article be written in the newsletter. **Abruzzese made a motion to recommend the Council approve a \$700 donation to Hunter Huot for the portable restroom screening project. Chu seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**JULY PARKS
TOUR:
MINNEAPOLIS
PARK AND
RECREATION
BOARD**

The Community Services Manager reported Horwath had been arranging a tour with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to visit the new playground structures at Wabun Picnic Area, Lake Nokomis Recreation Center, and Powderhorn Park. The Community Services Manager stated the tentative meeting date was set for Tuesday, July 17 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. and would confirm that date and time with the Commission as soon as possible.

**AUGUST
PARKS TOUR**

The Community Services Manager reminded the Commission is scheduled to hold their August meeting on Tuesday, August 7 at 6:30 p.m. He asked the Commission if they would like to have another Parks Tour. The Community Services Manager suggested the Commission visit Veteran's Memorial Park and Rondeau Park. The Commission agreed they would like to have a Parks Tour. Chair Miller explained the Commission had visited the dog park on Demont Avenue prior to the meeting. He stated the Community Services Manager had received feedback from the dog park and residents would like equipment for the dogs to use. He stated the Commission also visited the Waterworks Trail behind the Old Fire Hall. Chair Miller noted the Community Services Manager had also received feedback from the skate park users and the equipment may be a little out of date and worn.

**OTHER
BUSINESS**

The Community Services Manager reported the Old Fire Hall exterior would be remodeled soon including the garage doors, doors, roof, brick on the front side, and stucco on the other three sides of the building. He explained a committee was formed over a year ago to plan the remodel.

The Community Services Manager reported the Fall Youth and Adult Activities were open for registration.

The Community Services Manager reported the Ice Cream Social will be held on Thursday, August 2, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. This is a free event with root beer floats from Culver's being served the entire evening. Music and entertainment from the Tricia and the Toonies and a firetruck and

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firefighters from the Little Canada Fire Department will be there from 6:00-7:00 p.m. A magician/comedian will be there from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

The Community Services Manager reported Canadian Days would be held August 3-5.

The Community Services Manager reported Movie in the Park would be held on August 16 at dusk featuring Coco.

ADJOURN

Darling moved the meeting be adjourned

Motion seconded by Ray.

Motion carried 6 – 0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Leibel
Recording Secretary