

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

JULY 13, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a regular meeting of the City Council of Little Canada, Minnesota was convened on the 13th day of July, 2023 in the Council Chambers of the City Center located at 515 Little Canada Road in said City.

Acting Chair Schletty called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and the following members of the Parks & Recreation Commission were present at roll call:

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION: Abruzzese, DeLong Miller, Hipp, Mui, Schletty, Williams, and Youth Commissioner Churcher.

ABSENT: Horwath

ALSO PRESENT: Parks & Rec/Community Services Director Bryce Shearen and Recreation Coordinator Sierra Heitala

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Commissioner Hipp noted on page three, paragraph eight, it should state, "...would prefer to ~~remove~~ reassess the trail."

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the June 1, 2023 Parks & Recreation Commission minutes with the noted correction. Commissioner DeLong Miller seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS: PIONEER PARK UPDATE

The Parks & Rec Director commented that prior to this meeting the group toured Pioneer Park, focusing mainly on the work that is occurring in the play node area. He stated that the staff report includes work that has been done on the project since the last Commission meeting. He stated that the project is on track and is expecting the majority of the work to be completed at the end of August.

Acting Chairperson Schletty commented that he enjoyed the tour noting that they were able to visualize where things will go.

OLD BUSINESS: PARK LOGOS

The Parks & Rec Director commented that the Commission discussed this in 2022 and the idea was to increase the identity of the Little Canada parks system. He commented on the different ways the logos could be used in branding. He stated that staff worked with a graphic designer to

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develop some draft logo designs. He stated that the intent tonight was to provide the Commission with an idea of the designs and obtain feedback. He reviewed the different park logo concepts with the group to gather input.

Commissioner Williams commented that she believes the fleur-de-lis should be at the bottom of the logos as it appears to be floating.

Commissioner DeLong Miller agreed but noted that if the bottom didn't work it could also be placed to the left of Little Canada as that would match with the staff report.

The Parks & Rec Director asked and received confirmation that the group does want the logo included within the park logos.

The Commission members provided additional input on the different concepts.

Acting Chair Schletty noted that the logos do include things that people will see at the park, which is nice for identification.

Commissioner Abruzzese noted that these are all based on the summer season and noted that perhaps some of the concepts could incorporate fall colors.

The Parks & Rec Director commented that he would provide that input to the graphic designer and bring back some updated concepts for the Commission to review.

NEW BUSINESS: RECREATION COORDINATOR UPDATE

The Recreation Coordinator provided an overview of upcoming events and activities as well as adult and youth programming opportunities. She noted that fall activities opened for registration on July 1st and provided a highlight of those opportunities.

Commissioner Hipp asked if anyone has utilized the scholarships.

The Recreation Coordinator noted that she recently distributed two scholarships and advised that information on the scholarship program was included in the newsletter.

The Recreation Coordinator updated that she has been working with Commissioner Williams to use some of her photos to develop new educational signage in Gervais Mill Park.

The Parks & Rec Director noted that the e-newsletter is sent to all those that have subscribed, which is a great way to keep those folks engaged in new opportunities.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

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Commissioner Hipp stated that there has been a lot of construction activity in the corridor near her home. She stated that the entrance to Gervais Mill Park is looking great and wondered if something could be done to enhance the Edgerton entrance.

Commissioner Mui commented on the dog receptacles on the Thunder Bay Trail, noting that when they are filled it is often difficult to find the start. He stated that there have been multiple deer sightings on Edgerton near Gervais Mill and asked if there could be a guard rail to help guide the deer.

Acting Chair Schletty stated that he was recently at Rondeau and asked if the basketball court is scheduled for resurfacing.

The Parks & Rec Director replied that they had planned to resurface that, but it will need full replacement and therefore the improvement has been delayed to 2024.

Commissioner Williams commented on the trees that were recently planted at Spooner and commented that it looks great.

Commissioner Churcher commented that she tried the pump, and it was not working.

The Parks & Rec Director noted that they could check the pump following the meeting to see if it is operational.

UPDATES

The Parks & Rec Director stated that there are landscaping updates planned for the eastern entrance at Gervais Mill still this year. He noted that the City Council will most likely be authorizing a deer hunt later this year to help control the population. He stated that baseball basics wrapped up last night, with 30 participants, noting that it was offered as a free program run through volunteers. He stated that with funding from LCRA, they were able to provide t-shirts, hats, and gloves to all participants. He commented that the goats are back at Spooner Park and stated that there will be two feedings scheduled. He noted that 73 new trees were planted at Spooner and Pioneer Park through a grant the City received from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. He reminded the Commission there will not be an August meeting and advised of the upcoming Canadian Days events. He advised that the new Community Relations Manager will start at the City the following week and looks forward to enhanced community engagement with the new person onboard.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Staple

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TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.