

**City of Fridley
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting**

AGENDA

DATE: April 4, 2016

LOCATION: Fridley Municipal Center – Meeting Room 1

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF: March 7, 2016

APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA: April 4, 2016

1. **STAFF REPORT**

- a. Program Update
- b. Park Maintenance Report
- c. Springbrook Nature Center Report

2. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Election of Officers
- b. Fall Athletic League Fees
- c. Fridley's Urban Forestry Updates – Kay Qualley

3. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS/STAFF REPORTS:**

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting: Monday, May 2, 2016 at the Fridley Municipal Center – Meeting Room 1.



UPDATE

March, 2016

Page 1

Springbrook Nature Center

Jan Swanson attended a RSVP presentation on Building Positive Relationship Between Diver Groups of People. There was discussion on diversity in our work environment.

Continue to meet with HKGI representatives on the design of Phase 2 of the SPRING Project.

Camp flyers (23,000) have been distributed to schools.

Staff continues to teach Environmental Education at the schools. Recently students learned about six animal classes: Reptile, Amphibian, Mammal, Bird, Fish, and Insect.

Videos were recorded for the new tornado exhibit. Those interviewed included people who were around and remember the tornado. They shared their memories and what was happening at the time of the tornado.

Recreation

Cleve McCoy has established a partnership with Century College who will provide student volunteers to work at the ZONE.

Elementary Spring/Summer flyers were distributed to the elementary schools.

We continue to register softball teams and currently have over 35 teams registered.

ZONE attendance continues to be good. The week of March 7th we had 230 kids sign in.

Senior Program

Connie Thompson is working with Senior Coordinators from Edina and Brooklyn Park regarding our upcoming Nordic Walking Clinics in April and May.

We had a group of 45 attend our monthly casino trip to Turtle Lake Casino.

We've teamed up with the Fridley Police Department for a series of programs to teach seniors what the Police Department is all about. The programs are held on the second Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Upcoming topics include 911 and Pawn Shops. We had 21 attend the first program in March.

Defensive Driving courses continue to be popular. We had 28 attend the 8-hour course in March and 19 attend the Refresher Course.

The Honor Our Vets program was a huge success. We had approximately 130 veterans attend to find out more about vet pensions and benefits. We also had representation from Senator Klobuchar's and Franken's offices.

The JAMS program received a \$400 donation from the Lions Club.

We had a group of 15 attend the Great Decisions program, "India Changes Course".

Allina and North Memorial have officially become sponsors of the Fridley Senior Program. We are excited to have them join us and see their involvement having many future benefits.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Jack Kirk, Recreation Director

FROM: Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager-Streets and Parks

DATE: MARCH, 2016

SUBJECT MARCH PARKS REPORT

The Park Department has had a very warm spring so we have had a jump on our maintenance projects that should help us for the summer. The sediment removal project at the nature center went very well but we still have re-seeding to do when the weather warms up a little more. We are getting bids for the new boardwalk that is being replaced and I expect that to be completed by April.

We have all of our tennis nets and volleyball nets out and we are working at doing winter damage repairs and getting all athletic fields prepped for our summer programs. I have also been working with Kay Qualley on some grants she has been working on so we will be having some volunteer work being done along with planting of trees in the parks. We have lost many trees over the last few years that have not been replaced so this should be a good improvement for the parks and the city.

Jej:jej



Springbrook Nature Center

Mike Maher, Springbrook Nature Center Director

Monthly Report to Fridley Parks and Recreation Commission

April 2016

- Due to heavy construction activities, Springbrook trails and parking areas are temporarily closed. We expect to re-open the park in early May after the parking lot is resurfaced.
- Preparations for summer camp programming are well underway. We are committed to using the new interpretive center building for camps beginning in mid-June. Three new staff members have been interviewed and hired to begin working on 11 weeks of camp in June-August.
- Our spring teaching schedule is busy in April and May working with Fridley schools and working on the nature trail at Adams Elementary.
- Springbrook Staff has been busy developing some new classes and programs that will roll out with the opening of the new nature center building. Programs include:
 - A volunteer interpreter program with eight activity kits that will be used to engage park visitors. Examples include live animals, outdoor fort building, birding and an interactive tour of the building's sustainable features.
 - An all new offering of ten nature education classes developed for school field trips. Examples of the 90 minute classes will include animal tracking, orienteering, fungi, forest ecology, outdoor survival skills and pond study.
- Staff is busy researching and pricing equipment and supplies that will be utilized in the new nature center building. Examples include banquet tables and chairs, classroom tables, coat racks, patio furnishings, donor recognition, building signage and live animal enclosures.
- A \$25,000 donation has been committed by Parsons Electric towards an audio visual system for the new building. Staff continues to work closely with the development task force to identify grant opportunities, promote fundraising and contact local businesses.
- Construction of the new nature center building is moving along on schedule. Current work includes installation of the geothermal well field, sheetrock installation, electrical and mechanical work.
- Development of new exhibits for the nature center building is underway. Springbrook staff is working closely with Split Rock Studios on creative layouts of the exhibits, drafting and editing text as well as selecting photographs and graphics.
- The nature center staff is researching and drafting policies on building rentals in anticipation of the facility opening.
- A project was completed to remove approximately 2,300 cubic yards of sediment from wetlands in the northwest corner of the park. A new boardwalk is scheduled to be installed in late April.

Election of Officers

At the April meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission elects a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson. The Chairperson presides over the meetings of the Parks and Recreation Commission and is a member of the City's Planning Commission. At any meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission, if the Chairperson is not able to attend, the Vice-Chairperson acts as the Chairperson.

Memo

2b.

April 1, 2016

TO: Jack Kirk
Director

FR: Cleve McCoy
Program Supervisor

RE: 2016 ADULT FALL ATHLETIC LEAGUES

Listed below are the recommended fees for Fall Athletic Programs in 2016. I recommend that the Fall Softball League rates stay the same. Blaine charges \$575 per team for the men's division, and \$595 for Co-Rec teams (This includes Blaine rental fees for Airport Softball Facility). Roseville and Coon Rapids charges \$395 for men's divisions, and \$425 for Co - Rec teams. With the increase in 2015 there were a total of 29 teams. I believe keeping the fees at \$385 will assist with retention, and will not push new teams away with higher costs. The 4- Man Passing Football League should also stay the same. There was a \$10 increase in 2015 to cover extra costs for added week of play. Keeping rates the same after making changes last year shows consistency, and helps with the overall stability of the adult sports programs.

<u>Leagues</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
<u>FALL SOFTBALL</u>					
Men's	\$365	\$375	\$375	\$385	\$385
Co-Rec	\$390	\$390	\$390	\$400	\$400
<u>4 PERSON FOOTBALL</u>					
	\$70	\$70	\$70	\$80	\$80

Fridley's Urban Forestry Updates

Kay Qualley, City Environmental Planner and GreenStep Cities coordinator, will provide information at the meeting about the status of the new City tree inventory and urban forestry plan. Our GreenCorp member grant for 2016 has opened doors for additional grant opportunities for 2016-2018. The DNR, this week, awarded Fridley with a grant to supplement community forestry services in order to rapidly ramp-up tree planting. This grant will be submitted for Council approval at their April 11 meeting.

In addition, MnDOT and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency have provided grants toward improvements in Fridley's urban forest. The projects are an Arbor Day event and planting on Saturday April 30th from 9-11 a.m. and a right-of-way landscape design and development project to make improvements near the Mississippi River Trail and Riverfront Regional Park.



Fridley's Urban Forest Updates

2015-2016

Planning Dept. & City Forester Connection

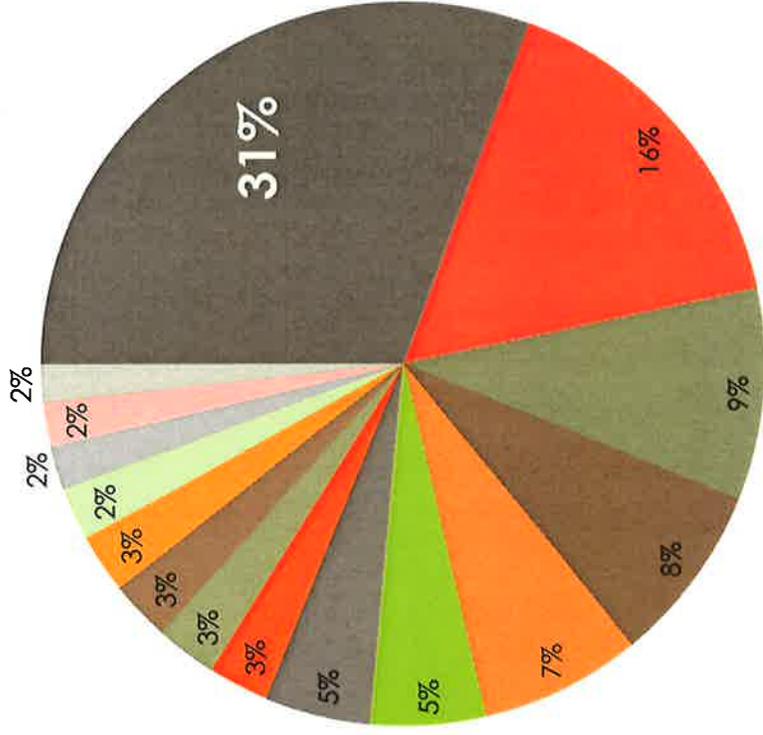
- GreenStep Cities Best Management Practices for Cities, #16 (add trees, become Tree City) & #29 (Resiliency)
- Federal Clean Air Initiatives
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and DNR: cleaner air, water and to mitigate Emerald Ash borer impact

Tree Inventory and GreenCorps

- Grant received for GreenCorps Member for 9/15 thru 8/16
- Inventory now in process, many neighborhoods complete
- University of Minnesota classes helping to develop private property inventory techniques

Fridley's Top Large Deciduous Trees by Species

- Green ash
- Silver maple
- Norway maple
- Siberian elm
- Bur oak
- White oak
- Cottonwood
- Honeylocust
- Northern red oak
- Boxelder
- American Elm
- Northern hackberry
- Littleleaf linden
- Sugar maple
- Red maple

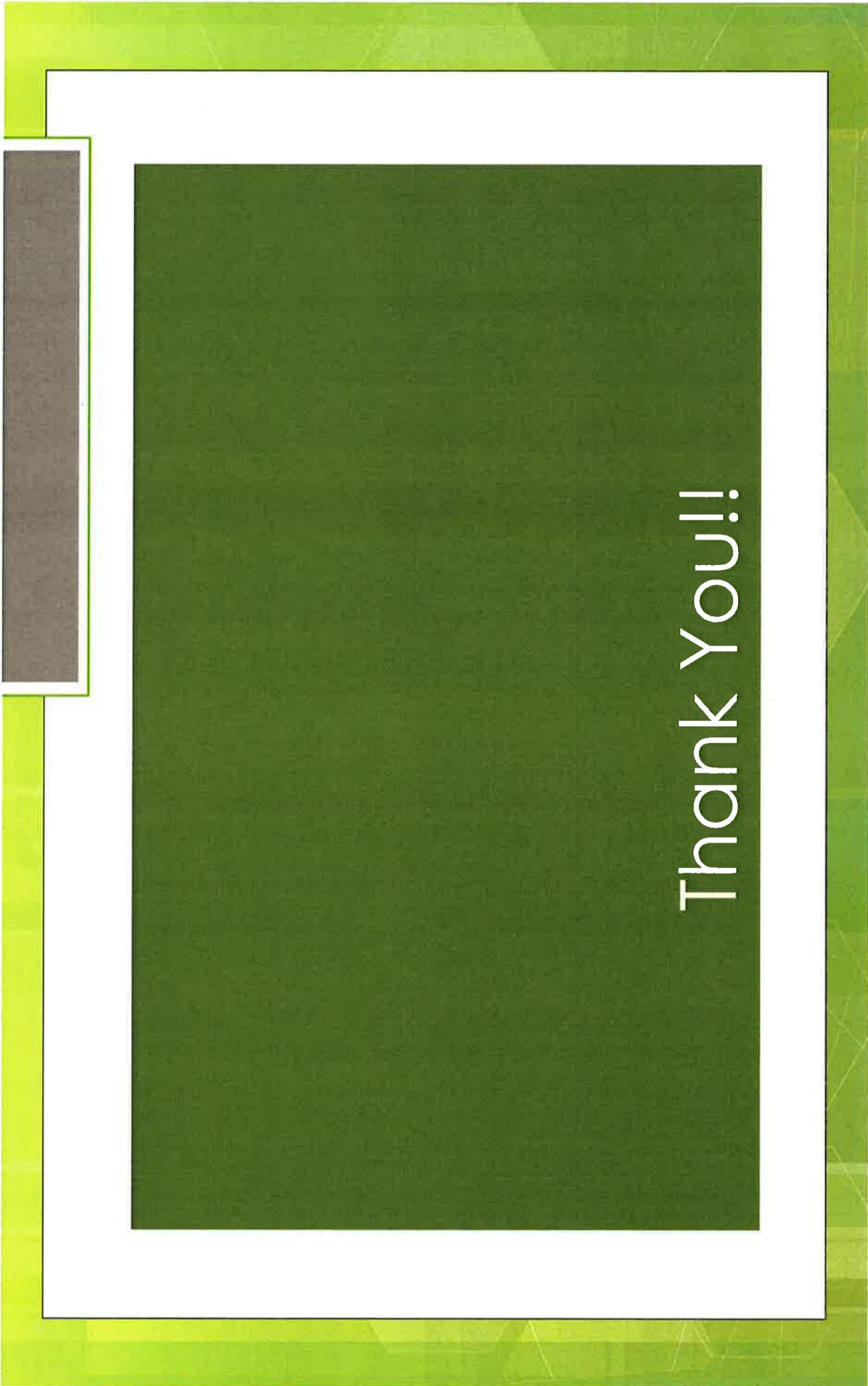


Melody Manor: Ash in yellow



Grants and tree planting initiatives

- DNR Grant to ramp up tree planting on public land for 2016 and 2017
- Arbor Day 2016, MPCA grant and Tree City U.S.A. requirement: April 30, Commons Pk.
- Volunteer opportunities, business & service groups
- Springbrook and Parks plantings sites coordinated with Jeff J. & Mike Maher



Thank You!!