

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

AGENDA

DATE: June 6, 2016

LOCATION: Commons Park Shelter

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF: May 2, 2016

APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA: June 6, 2016

1. STAFF REPORT:

- a. Program Update
- b. Park Maintenance Report
- c. Springbrook Nature Center Report
- d. Fridley '49er Days
- e. Springbrook Nature Center Building Grand Opening

2. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Playground Equipment Addition at Commons Park

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: Monday, August 1, 2016 at the Fridley Municipal Center, Meeting Room 1.

NOTE: Park tour will start at 6:00 p.m. Picnic and meeting will be at the Commons Park shelter following the tour. All items for the picnic will be furnished.

PARK TOUR – 6:00 P.M.

The park tour will leave from Commons Park north parking lot at 6:00 p.m. Picnic and meeting will be at the Commons Park shelter following the tour. We will be going to the new Springbrook Nature Center building for the tour.



UPDATE

May 2016

Page 1

Springbrook Nature Center

Naturalist Brynn and Tara programed at Adams Elementary School. Kindergarten classes learned about living and non-living things, 2nd graders learned about life cycles and planting seeds in garden gloves, 4 graders scooped for invertebrates in the wetlands.

Stevenson and Hayes Elementary 1st grade field trip took place at SNC. After classroom studies on wetlands and life cycles they put their knowledge to on site. A long hike to the floating boardwalk give the students a chance to see the new building being completed and observe nature on the way. Dipping with nets into the pond the students identified young and adult aquatic macro invertebrates.

Fridley Middle School students headed to the nature center to continue and learn hands on with their continued studies on: Climate Change Experiments – looking at how carbon dioxide and how plants affect the environment.

Stevenson and Hayes 1st graders are enjoying adopting butterflies in the classrooms and learning about butterfly cycles.

Recreation

Adult softball started Sunday May 1st -- 40 teams have signed up.

The Zone for the month of April had a total of 1,029 students. Compared to our average numbers this by far surpasses the norm!

The Senior Golf League began last Thursday with 24 players at Brightwood Hills in New Brighton.

Spring Lake Park hosted a softball tournament at Community Park, Saturday, May 21st.

Summer staffing is complete! We have 13 returning staff and are in the process of hiring 7 new leaders and 2 assistants.

14 recreation summer staff attended the MRPA Leadership Workshop on Saturday, May 21st. They enjoyed the sessions focusing on leadership, bullying, special needs, and safety/group games.

Seniors

The Taste of Nordic Walking was held on Wednesday morning. 20 were registered and it was very well received. 12 have signed up for an on –going walking group. Another event is scheduled for May 12 at 6:30 pm.

27 participants attended the final session of the Senior Safety Series on Monday. The series will resume next fall. Possible topics include door locks, alarms to keep safe, crime lab and Coroner's office.

Congressman Ellison held a senior community meeting on senior benefits on Monday.

The Senior Volunteer Recognition was held on Wednesday. Over 50 attended.

The Total Brain Health Memory Class started on Wednesday May 11th. We increased the count to 26 due to the waiting list of 10 seniors. Connie just can't turn anyone away. The class will consist of 16 sessions – teaching memory strategies and the science behind them.

The Taste of Nordic Walking event for Encore was held on Thursday evening. 26 participated. That makes a total of 54 that have been introduced to Nordic Walking this spring. Ongoing walking groups are now being formed. The next Taste (Intro) will be held on June 14, 1:30 pm.

The Green Book Fair was held on Thursday. We took in 655 books for recycling and gave away 514.

CITY OF FRIDLEY
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – MAY 2, 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Heintz called the May 2, 2016 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Greg Ackerman, Michele Barrett, Mike Heintz, Dave Kondrick, Shanna Larson

Others Present: Jack Kirk, Director of Parks and Recreation

APPROVAL OF APRIL 4, 2016 PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

MOTION by Ms. Larson, seconded by Mr. Ackerman, to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2016 meeting.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL MEMBERS VOTING AYE, CHAIRPERSON HEINTZ DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA FOR MAY 2, 2016

MOTION by Mr. Kondrick, seconded by Ms. Barrett, to approve the agenda for the May 2, 2016 meeting as submitted by staff.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL MEMBERS VOTING AYE, CHAIRPERSON HEINTZ DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED.

1. STAFF REPORT

a. Program Update

Mr. Kirk stated that the Program Update was included in the agenda packet to provide information on the Parks and Recreation Department programs in the past month. The publicity on the summer programs has been mailed out in the seasonal activities brochure. That will include information on summer playgrounds and the ROCKS program.

Mr. Kirk stated that staff has completed interviews for the summer job opportunities and have offered jobs to the top candidates. Staff was pleased to have a number of key returning staff to lead this summer's activities.

Mr. Kirk further stated that the Springbrook Nature Center staff has been doing a good job of running programs at the schools. Staff just completed a unit with Fridley Middle School students on solar energy.

Mr. Kirk stated that Twin Cities Gateway has designated \$10,000 for marketing and promotion of the new Springbrook Nature Center facilities.

Mr. Kirk stated that the Senior program has a property tax refund assistance program that helped 45 seniors get their property tax refund forms completed during the month of April.

b. Park Maintenance Report

Mr. Kirk stated that Jeff Jensen has provided a written report of Park Maintenance activities over the past month. During the month of April, the Parks Division has been in the process of preparing all the parks and athletic fields for the summer season. Leagues are now starting, so the workers are prepping the softball, baseball and soccer fields for game play. They have started mowing in some of the parks and should be on the full mowing schedule soon. The workers helped a volunteer group that put in 10 trees and 135 plants at the Community Park. They also provided assistance at an Arbor Day event at Commons Park where volunteers planted 11 new trees.

c. Springbrook Nature Center Report

Mr. Kirk stated that Mike Maher provided a written report for the Commission that is in the agenda packet. The spring school programming is going well with programs in the Fridley schools and Adams Elementary. Several of the school classes will be making field trips to Springbrook this month. Summer camp planning is underway and three naturalists have been hired as camp staff. Registration is going well with about 70% of last year's numbers reached already. Additional nature center information is in the written report.

Mr. Kirk stated that the new Springbrook Nature Center building project is progressing nicely and should be completed on time. A grand opening celebration is being planned for Saturday July 30th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

d. Commission Member Re-Appointments

Mr. Kirk stated that on March 23, 2016, the Fridley City Council re-appointed Mike Heintz and Shanna Larson to new 3-year terms as members of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Kirk thanked both of them for their willingness to serve our community.

e. University of MN Urban Forestry Class Presentation

Mr. Kirk stated that University of Minnesota students have been working on an urban tree and greenspace plan for the City of Fridley and will be making a presentation in the City Council chambers on Wednesday, May 4th at 2:00pm. The students are part of the Urban Forestry classes at the University. The Parks and Recreation Commission members are invited to attend the presentation.

2. NEW BUSINESS

a. 5-Year Parks Capital Improvement Program

Mr. Kirk stated that he is bringing the staff recommended Parks 5-Year Capital Improvement Program to the Parks and Recreation Commission for their consideration and input. He would like to go through the projects that are scheduled for 2017 to make sure the Commission is in agreement with the planned projects.

Mr. Kirk further stated that the 2017 plan calls for court surfacing and overlays at an amount of \$32,000. This part of the plan is to resurface and color-coat a number of our tennis and basketball courts in the park system. A review of the courts is done in the spring of the year and the courts in most need are then attended to. As a general rule, courts need to be recoated every three to four years in order to retain a good playing surface. Court surfacing is included each year in the CIP to keep our facilities in good condition.

Mr. Kirk stated that there is \$80,000 recommended for play equipment replacements. Many of the park play equipment structures in our city are getting to be 20 or more years old and are showing their age. This replacement program will likely take many years to get to all the parks, but we need to get started making these improvements.

Mr. Kirk further stated that the 2017 plan allows for \$12,000 in park furnishings. This would be replacement benches, picnic tables, picnic grills and fencing in the parks. We try to include funding for replacing park furnishings in each year of the CIP plan.

Mr. Kirk stated that the parking lots at Moore Lake are in need of replacement and the larger lot near the swimming beach is being scheduled for next year. The amount in the 2017 plan for this Moore Lake parking lot is \$90,000.

Mr. Kirk stated that there is \$5,000 for boardwalk/bridge replacement at Springbrook Nature Center in the plan. Most of the boardwalk systems have been replaced at this point, but we have kept a small amount in for the next couple of years to do some improvements as needed to the trails and bridges.

Mr. Kirk stated that another item listed in the 2017 CIP is security cameras in the parks. The cameras are installed to serve as a deterrent to vandalism and graffiti, as well as to capture images that may help in prosecuting the offenders. There is \$30,000 in the plan for cameras in 2017.

Mr. Kondrick stated that he would like to see signs in the parks alerting people to the fact that cameras are being used. The signs would be another tool to help in the battle against the vandalism and graffiti.

Mr. Kirk stated that there is a table in the packet that shows the projects listed for 2017 through 2021. The Commission members will see that many of the same project categories appear in each year of the plan. Staff believes that this plan will help us keep our park facilities in good condition for future years.

Mr. Kirk stated that the Parks CIP has several funding sources. Funds will come from Local Government Aid monies, Park Dedication Fees, interest on investment of park reserve funds and some liquor store proceeds transferred to the parks fund. A breakdown of these costs is listed in the table of Parks Capital Improvement Program projections.

Ms. Larson asked if this would be a good time to talk about the possibility of building a new park in an area that is not currently served by a park. She has been contacted by people living in an area without a park nearby and they would like to have a park to use. What would be the financial outlay to build a new park?

Mr. Kirk stated that the costs for a new park can vary greatly depending on the size of the park, costs for land purchase and amenities that would be included in the park.

Mr. Kirk stated that he thought the appropriate time to discuss park needs is when the Parks and Recreation Commission is doing the park service area study. The study looks at how well neighborhoods are served by park facilities.

Mr. Kirk stated that going forward, the biggest expenditures for the Parks CIP will be in the playground equipment and the court surfacing categories.

Ms. Larson asked if the City is looking at taking out some of the court facilities in the future.

Mr. Kirk stated the he would doubt that more courts would be taken out, as the City is trying to provide opportunities throughout the community. The Parks and Recreation had recommended some past reductions in tennis court areas that has already been implemented.

Mr. Kondrick stated that this Commission has to be constantly aware of the wants and desires of the residents of our community relative to the park and recreation amenities for the park system. Skating rinks and tennis courts have been good examples. As the community interests change, it is important to recommend spending the improvements money wisely on facilities and amenities that are going to be used. Interests change and trends change. Fortunately we have a good staff that will advise the Commission on appropriate direction for the park improvements.

MOTION by Mr. Kondrick, seconded by Mr. Ackerman to approve the staff recommended Parks 5-Year Capital Improvement Program plan as presented to the Commission.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL MEMBERS VOTING AYE, CHAIRPERSON HEINTZ DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED.

b. Springbrook Nature Center Naming Rights

Mr. Kirk stated that there is an approved naming and recognition policy for the SPRING project that was reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission and has been approved by the Fridley City Council. There have been some very large donations made to the project that should be formally recognized. The template for an agreement is before the Commission this evening for a recommendation.

Mr. Kirk stated that each large donation to the project that was connected to naming a room or amenity at the Springbrook Nature Center would have an agreement such as this one. The agreement will specify what the donor would like to have recognition for.

Mr. Kirk further stated that this covers a number of important areas such as how the donation is to be used, how the donor is recognized, publicity related to the donation, changes that could occur, and even situations that could result in a termination of the agreement. Each of the agreements would ultimately go to the Fridley City Council for approval.

Mr. Kondrick stated that he has reviewed the document several times and it looks very good. He would be supportive of this template to use for the Springbrook Naming and Recognition agreements.

Mr. Heintz stated that from the beginning of the project he was supportive of the naming rights, because it is a great way to bring in some sizeable donations. He has reviewed the document and does not have any concerns with it.

MOTION by Mr. Ackerman, seconded by Ms. Larson to approve the staff recommended Springbrook Nature Center Naming Rights Agreement document format to be used with donors to the SPRING project.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL MEMBERS VOTING AYE, CHAIRPERSON HEINTZ DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED.

c. Goose Management Plan

Mr. Kirk stated that the City of Fridley has using a goose management program since 1990. We have hired a company to remove a number of geese from Moore Lake Park and beach for the heavy use summer season.

Mr. Kirk stated that Moore Lake Park is one of the most heavily used parks in our community during the summer months. High concentrations of Canadian Geese can create problems for the park users participating in the activities of swimming, picnicking, enjoying the beach, playing on ballfields and on sand volleyball courts. The goose droppings on the trails, grass areas, beach, and sand are a health and safety concern. The goose removal program we have used over the years has kept the bird numbers at a reasonable level at the park.

Mr. Kirk stated that he has been notified recently that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has implemented some changes in providing a permit to remove geese in the metro area. The DNR is requiring that local units of government (such as cities) to have a DNR approved Canada Goose Management plan in place before the geese can be trapped and removed.

Mr. Kirk further stated that staff has put together a proposed plan for dealing with Canada Geese in Fridley. In particular, the plan addresses removal of the geese from Moore Lake Park and the beach area. The plan is not real elaborate, but it does address the problems that we face with too many geese in Fridley.

Mr. Kirk stated the plan addresses monitoring of large goose population areas in our community. We have an ordinance prohibiting the feeding of waterfowl in our city parks and that is indicated in the plan. We have education material available at the Parks and Recreation office to assist residents with handling goose concerns. The plan also identifies two websites that have very good information on how to deal with Canada Goose issues. The plan addresses how the City will handle goose problems in City parks and on public property, as well as what private property owners can do.

Mr. Kondrick asked what the removal program costs the City each year.

Mr. Kirk stated that is costs about \$1,500.

Ms. Larson asked where they take the birds.

Mr. Kirk stated the birds used to be relocated to other areas of the country or the state. No one wants the birds anymore, so they are processed for the food shelf or used for animal feed.

MOTION by Ms. Larson, seconded by Ms. Barrett, to approve the staff recommended Goose Management Plan for the City of Fridley.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL MEMBERS VOTING AYE, CHAIRPERSON HEINTZ DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Larson, seconded by Ms. Barrett to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL MEMBERS VOTING AYE, CHAIRPERSON HEINTZ DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED AND THE MAY 2, 2016 MEETING ADJOURNED.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Jack Kirk, Recreation Director

FROM: Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager-Streets and Parks

DATE: MAY, 2016

SUBJECT MAY PARKS REPORT

The Park Department is in full swing with softball, baseball and soccer leagues now playing. We are very busy prepping all our fields every week. The tree planting is going well and we had another volunteer group from Medtronic help us plant another 34 trees in Commons Park. Grass is growing fast with the wet weather so mowing is constant and we are cutting everyday on the University Ave corridor. We have added one soccer field to Madsen Park and have been working on repairing the football field again this summer along with repairs at Locke Park as well. We are also looking at making additions to the playground system at Commons Park this summer along with a new entrance landscaping project at the North parking lot entrance.

Jej:jej



Springbrook Nature Center
Mike Maher, Springbrook Nature Center Director
Monthly Report to Fridley Parks and Recreation Commission
June 2016

- Due to heavy construction activities, Springbrook trails and parking areas continue to be temporarily closed. We expect to re-open the park June 11th after the parking lot is resurfaced.
- A grand opening for the new interpretive center is being planned for July 30th from 1-4 pm. The free event will feature building and trail tours, refreshments, the City of Fridley Band, a program to thank and recognize contributors and much more.
- Construction of the new nature center building is moving along on schedule. Current work includes installation of cabinetry, plumbing fixtures, painting, and recoating the stucco on the exterior of the remodeled building. Additional landscaping and outdoor furnishings have been approved and will be moving forward over the coming weeks.
- Preparations for summer camp programming are well underway. We are committed to using the new interpretive center building for camps beginning in mid-June. Four new staff members have been hired and due to increases in registration, we are adding a fourth staff member to increase our capacity from 36 to 48 students for each of the 11 weeks of camp. Registration has already reached last year's levels and we continue to see enrollments.
 - Camp staff will begin a week of training on June 6th
- Our spring teaching schedule was busy in May and the first part of June. We completed all of our curriculum at Adams Elementary and the Fridley Public Schools.
- Staff has ordered most of the new 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.
- Staff continues to work closely with the development task force to identify grant opportunities, promote fundraising and contact local businesses.
 - The Fridley Lions committed a final gift of \$100K to finish a \$250K sponsorship of a community amphitheater
 - Financial One Credit Union has pledged a gift of \$50K and will sponsor a new entrance sign for the park with an electronic message board
 - RAO Manufacturing has pledged an additional gift of \$10K
 - To date, we have had about 80 pavers that will be engraved as part of the new building walkway, 11 sponsored benches and several memorial trees.
- Development of new exhibits for the nature center building is underway. Springbrook staff is working closely with Split Rock Studios on final graphics for exhibits, which are scheduled for installation the week of June 20th.
- The nature center staff is researching and drafting policies on building rentals in anticipation of the facility opening and expects to present them to the Commission at the August meeting.



Fridley '49er Days

June 16-18



FREE Admission

THURSDAY June 16

6:20pm Run for Fun
6:30pm **PARADE**

FRIDAY June 17

9am - 4pm Senior Activities
5pm - 9pm BINGO
5pm - 11pm Lions Beer/Wine Tent
5pm - 11pm Exhibit Booths
5pm - 11pm Food Concessions
6pm - 10pm Softball Tournament
7pm - 10:30pm Teen Dance & Live Concert "My Misconception"
7pm - 11pm Jonah and the Whales
Teen Pizza Eating Contest
Teen Outdoor Games



SATURDAY June 18

9am - 10pm Softball Tournament
10am - Noon Football Clinic
Noon - 11pm Lions Beer/Wine Sales
Noon - 11pm Food Concessions
Noon - 6pm Kids Day Activities
Watermelon Eating & Seed Spitting Contest
Noon - 6pm Kid's DJ
Noon - 6pm Inflatables & Games (All Ages)
Noon - 4pm Allina Wellness Van
Noon - 6pm BINGO
Noon - 6pm Police Department Dunk Tank
K - 9 Demonstration
Noon - 11pm Exhibit Booths
6pm - 11pm FHS All School Reunion
7pm - 11pm UNION JUNCTION BAND



Kids Day

Saturday, June 18

Noon-6pm

INFLATABLE CARNIVAL

ALL AGES

25 tickets for \$20

(Tickets good for game booths, frisbee spin art, cliff jump and bungee trampoline)

Bungee Trampoline Wristband \$20

(Unlimited bungee trampoline plus 10 tickets)

On-site Ticket Sales \$1/ticket

(Unlimited Bungee Wristband on-site \$15)

Pre-Festival Tickets
(On sale thru June 15th!)

FREE!

BANDS BANDS BANDS



FIREWORKS at 10pm

Search "Fridley Days" on Facebook - or visit www.fridleymn.gov

LOCATION: COMMONS PARK - 6249 7th St. NE in Fridley

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2016 FESTIVAL SPONSORS





Grand Opening Celebration

Saturday, July 30

Formal Ceremony at 1:00 p.m.
Ribbon-cutting and community celebration
to follow from 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Directions and Details: SpringbrookNatureCenter.org

Ice Cream!
Tours!
Music!



2a Playground Equipment Addition at Commons Park

Staff is recommending adding some play features to the Commons Park playground equipment. Commons is one of our most heavily used parks and adding some equipment here will allow many children to use it. We would be getting the most from our investment placing the equipment at this popular park.

The new equipment will replace several pieces of equipment that were old or needed to be removed for safety reasons. The equipment would be added to the same area of the park as the existing play structures. We would extend the play area to the west a little (toward 7th Street) to accommodate some of the new equipment.

The funding for these additions to the play equipment will come from the Parks Capital Improvement Program. We have \$30,000 in the 2016 plan and have some funds available that we carried over from 2015 to cover the balance.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will be shown some possible equipment additions at the meeting on Monday for discussion.