

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

AGENDA

DATE: January 9, 2017

LOCATION: Fridley Municipal Center – Meeting Room 1

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF: December 5, 2016

APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA: January 9, 2017

1. **STAFF REPORT**

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

2. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Moore Lake Sand Dunes Park Land Management Proposal
- b.
- c.

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

- a.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting: Monday, February 6, 2017 at the Fridley Municipal Center Meeting Room 1.

CITY OF FRIDLEY
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – DECEMBER 5, 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Heintz called the December 5, 2016 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Others Present: Jack Kirk, Director of Parks and Recreation
Robert Barnette, Fridley City Council- Councilmember-at-Large

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 7, 2016 PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Kondrick, seconded by Ms. Barrett, to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2016 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

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

APPROVAL OF PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 5, 2016

MOTION by Mr. Kondrick, seconded by Mr. Ackerman, to approve the agenda for the December 5, 2016 meeting.

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 has been included in the meeting packet to provide commission members with information on some of the programs and events during the past month.

Mr. Kirk stated that he wanted to call attention to the Veterans Day Celebration held on November 11th at the Senior Center which had over 200 people in attendance. It was a very nice program and it is very meaningful to the seniors.

Mr. Kirk further stated that the Springbrook Nature Center staff conducts periodic Saturday evening nature programs called Discovery Dinners. It includes a catered meal and a nature oriented presentation. The November 12th Discovery Dinner featured Carrol Henderson as the guest speaker. Mr. Henderson is an author and champion of the Minnesota DNR Non-Game Wildlife program. There were 22 people that attended the program.

Mr. Kondrick asked if the City owned any houses in the properties north of Moore Lake.

Mr. Kirk stated that the City does not own any houses there, but we do own several properties north of the Moore Lake Park. There are also three privately owned properties with houses on them.

Mr. Kirk stated that HKGi has shown the area north of the Moore Lake Park as a possible future development, should the City wish to proceed in that direction. It is shown as a park expansion and possible multi-housing area, but it could also be developed in other directions too.

Mr. Heintz stated that he would like to see more discussion in the future on whether the City should look at expanding Moore Lake Park by purchasing additional property. Maybe the City should consider selling the currently owned properties and using proceeds to make improvements in the park.

Ms. Larson stated that she believes the master plan presented by HKGi looks beautiful. All the features being proposed are very nice.

Mr. Kirk stated that he would suggest reviewing the plan tonight by identifying what was kept in the new plan, what would be removed or taken out, what would be moved and what would be added to the park. Mr. Kirk reviewed these areas with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Kirk stated that the picnic shelters are viewed as very important in the use of this park, so upgrading the shelters will be included in the plan. The plan identifies the possibility of adding one or two larger shelters at the park to accommodate some bigger groups.

Mr. Kirk stated that keeping an open play area at the park was important to all who participated in the planning process. The plan calls for a flexible open field space centrally located in the new design.

Mr. Kirk stated that there was a lot of discussion about the court areas, basketball and tennis, during the planning sessions. The plan has the tennis courts and basketball court being removed from Moore Lake.

Mr. Ackerman stated that we have lots of tennis courts throughout the community, so he can understand them being removed. He was surprised at the recommendation to remove the basketball court.

Mr. Kirk stated that relocating the court was discussed, but it was difficult to find another park amenity that would be a good fit to have the basketball court next to. The Moore Lake Park is geared more to social gatherings, picnics and water based activity. If the basketball court is removed, it may make sense to install a new full size full court one at Commons Park, which is more of an athletic/sports type of park. A good location at Commons would be near the youth football field, near the existing parking lot.

Mr. Kirk stated the sand volleyball would be moved over to the beach area and the swimming beach area itself being reduced in size.

Mr. Kirk stated that the re-design of the park and the adding of a water quality improvement project would reduce the size of the south parking lot somewhat. Enlarging the northern parking lot could help to make up for the lost parking capacity.

Mr. Kirk stated that the key feature that could be added with this plan would be a children's splash pad in proximity to the swimming beach. Also, new updated playground equipment is being suggested for the park. Adjacent to the splash pad and play equipment could be a

MOTION by Mr. Ackerman, seconded by Ms. Larson, to support the preferred concept plan for the Moore Lake Park Master Plan as prepared by Hoelsington Koegler Group, Inc with the notation that with the basketball court being removed, that it be relocated to Commons Park.

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

b. Locke Park Soccer Fields

Mr. Ackerman stated that he asked to make a few comments on this item, even though it was not on tonight's agenda. He wanted to suggest that at a future meeting, the Commission discuss the impact of the new Civic Center project on the park and the soccer fields that are currently there. He has been approached by people who live in the neighborhood to the south of the project and some are concerned about what will happen to the soccer fields.

Mr. Ackerman stated that he would like to have the Commission involved in discussion about where the soccer fields will be located.

Mr. Barnette stated that he lives in the neighborhood and he has heard neighbors voice that they don't want the City to get rid of the park. There are fields at Community Park that could accommodate soccer, as well as field space in other parks. He knows that with the new development taking place at Locke, there will not be the parking that is needed for soccer play.

Mr. Kirk stated that staff has already been looking at soccer field locations and would like to have more discussion with the Commission at an upcoming meeting. We have looked at other City parks, as well as school district fields.

Mr. Ackerman stated that would be helpful so that Commission members will be able to respond to questions.

Mr. Kirk stated that the youth soccer association that uses the fields is called the Fridley-Heights Soccer Association. He has been told by the Association representatives that about 60% of the participants are from Fridley and about 40% from Columbia Heights. As future field use is considered for the youth association, it should be a joint effort from both the Cities of Fridley and Columbia Heights to provide fields for this group. Right now, the City of Fridley provides most of the fields for association play.

The Commission agreed to have discussion on soccer fields at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Ackerman, seconded by Ms. Barrett, to adjourn the December 5, 2016 meeting at 8:10 p.m.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL MEMBERS VOTING AYE, CHAIRPERSON HEINTZ DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED AND THE DECEMBER 5, 2016 MEETING ADJOURNED.



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

UPDATE

December 2016

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Springbrook Nature Center

We had 16 new volunteers go through orientation in December.

Representatives of Northeast Bank toured the center as part of a request for a grant from their Foundation.

We had a group from Karner Blue Education Center in Circle Pines. They brought eight students with autism and other behavioral issues to attend a half-day program. Students did hands-on activities making plaster animal tracks to help identify animals and animal signs on the trails in the woods. They also participated in a series of games to teach them to work together learning team building skills.

Breakfast with Nature Santa was successful with 65 people attending. There were crafts, games, sensory experiences and a hearty bunch of eggs, fruit, sausage, and croissants. The kids were very excited when Santa arrived with his bag of gifts and story time reading.

Recreation

We had 648 kids attend the ZONE for the month of November.

The Commons warming house opened on December 21st. Hours are 4:00 – 9:00 p.m. weekdays and 12:00 – 9:00 p.m. on weekends, holidays, and school-out days.

In December we began stamping the hands of ZONE participants which identifies them as a participant for the day.

Margo was selected to receive the MRPA Dorothea Nelson Award for her work in the field of parks and recreation and the association.

The winter/spring activities brochure was mailed to residents.

Senior Program

We had 350 seniors attend the Annual Holiday Dinner at Banquets of MN. A special thanks to all of the Lions members who helped with the event.

We had 120 registered for the Holiday Lights Tour, but unfortunately due to the extremely cold weather we had a lot of no shows. Those that did venture out had a great time! The City Band set a great tone with a holiday sing-along as participants enjoyed cider and cookies.

The Fridley Community Theater will be doing The Dining Room for its February Dinner Show, and Beauty and the Beast for the summer production.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Jack Kirk, Recreation Director

FROM: Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager-Streets and Parks

DATE: DECEMBER, 2016

SUBJECT: December Parks Report

The Park Department has been working every day possible to get all ice rinks up and running. We have been having very difficult weather which is hard to make good ice and keep them that way. After a short cold spell we were able to establish ice at both rinks at Commons but then lost that ice and the other hockey rinks with extended days with close to 40 degrees. Once we got cold weather again we were able to get Commons up running again and then we had over a inch of rain that took out frost on a lot of our general rinks. Now we have cold weather again to make our hockey rinks good but we are having problems with the general rinks at Flannery, Madison and Ruth Circle Parks but at least there are hockey rinks there for people to skate on. We also took advantage of the warm weather and were able to remove 12 dead trees from various parks.

Jej:jej



Springbrook Nature Center
Mike Maher, Springbrook Nature Center Director
Monthly Report to Fridley Parks and Recreation Commission
January 2017

- The Nature Center has hired a part time weekend custodian, Graig Weber, who will start the week of January 9th.
- A \$25,000 grant has been awarded to the Nature Center from 3M to fund a sustainability exhibit at the nature center and an educational partnership with the Alexandria School District. Staff is currently getting quotes for a sustainability kiosk to utilize a touchscreen monitor to educate building visitors about energy use, geothermal energy, storm water managements and other green building features
- A \$10,000 venue grant from Twin Cities Gateway was utilized to develop, print and distribute two brochures for Springbrook. One is focused on rental opportunities and the other is for our environmental education field trips.
- Staff continues to work closely with the development task force to identify grant opportunities, promote fundraising and contact local businesses.
- The Nature Center's Discovery Dinner series has resumed and we will be hosting an astronomy program by the University of Minnesota on January 7th and author and photographer Stan Tekiela on February 18th. Both programs begin at 5:30 pm with a catered meal to follow.
- We currently have seasonal naturalists teaching, running our ongoing programs such as playful polliwogs weekly preschool classes and completing special projects such as updating our audio tour, writing new class curriculum, volunteer coordination and planning our weekend family fun days.
- Building rentals are being booked with 1 business holiday party, a non-profit banquet, 2 baby showers, 2 adult parties, 2 business meetings, and 6 youth birthday parties scheduled in January.
- Bids were opened for our Amphitheater (made possible by the Fridley Lions) and nature based play area (made possible by Jerome and Patricia Hartlaub). The contract was awarded to Custom Builders Inc. Work is anticipated to be in two phases with site preparation in January and the remaining grading, concrete work, landscaping, etc. being completed in the spring. The project cost is expected to be \$283,000 and does not include play features, which will be added by a separate contractor in the spring at an estimated cost of \$100,000.

Fridley WinterFest

12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 21st

Commons Park & Fridley Community Center

6085 7th Street NE

Outdoors:

- Horse Drawn Hay Ride
- Dog Sled Rides
- Ice Skating & Sledding (bring skates or a sled)
- Medallion Hunt with a \$100 prize
- Huge Bonfire and S'mores
- North Metro Youth Hockey Mites Tournament



Indoors:

- Play BINGO and other games
- Visit the Instant Snow Booth
- Arts & Crafts
- Dance to music provided by a DJ
- Food and Refreshments (for purchase)



All activities are **FREE!**

Thanks to donations from local groups and organizations.

Thank you to all of the groups who help to put on this annual event!

Fridley Lions Club
49er Ambassador Program
Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts
Boy Scouts
Dairy Queen
FHS Key Club

FHS Honor Society
Fridley ECFE
Fridley Rotary
Fridley Fire Department
Fridley Police Department
Fridley Park Maintenance

Senior Program
Tiger Club
Trailhead Cycling
North Metro Youth Hockey Association
National Flag Football Association
North Star Roller Girls

Sponsored by the Fridley Parks & Recreation Department. For further information call 763-572-3570.

2a Moore Lake Sand Dunes Park Land Management Proposal

The West Moore Lake Park - Sand Dunes Natural History Area is 7.6 acre park located on the western shore of Moore Lake. It is an undeveloped, natural park property that falls into the category of "Barrens oak savanna". There are many sand-loving plants that occur in this park land, which is small remnant of a once much larger sandy area west of the lake. It was decided by the City many years ago (in the late 1960's) to keep this area in its natural state to preserve the historical character and native plants.

Mr. Craig Andresen has contacted City staff with a proposal to provide some land management services at the Sand Dunes Park. I have attached his letter and accompanying information. The City has worked with Mr. Andresen in the past and believe he provided some very valuable services to our park at little or no cost to us. Mr. Andresen has indicated that he will be at the meeting on Monday to discuss the Sand Dunes Park and his proposal.



FRIDLEY MUNICIPAL CENTER • 6431 UNIVERSITY AVE. N.E. FRIDLEY, MN 55432 • (612) 571-3450 • FAX (612) 571-1287

Mr. Craig Andresen
2013 Walnut Ave. No.
New Brighton, MN 55112

September 14, 1995

Dear Mr. Andresen,

I am sending this letter as acknowledgement that you have been given permission to remove non prairie species from the West Moore Lake Dunes Natural History Area. At this time species that you would be removing would include quaking aspen, Chinese elm, European buckthorn, and other species that are beginning to invade the prairie areas we identified during a walk through the site earlier this summer.

As we discussed, you will also be spraying Round Up herbicide on the stump of each tree cut to assure that it will not sucker up next year.

Thank you very much for your willingness to volunteer this work. It is a real benefit to the community and greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Siah L. St. Clair

Director
Springbrook Nature Center

P.S. Enclosed is a very rough map made of the area 20 years ago.
I will try to get an aerial photo.



Natural Resources Restoration, Inc.

2013 Walnut Ave. N.W. • New Brighton, MN 55112
(651) 636-3462 • Fax (651) 639-8097

September 22, 2016

Mike Maher
Director
Springbrook Nature Center
100 85th Avenue NE
Fridley, MN 55432

Dear Mr. Maher;

Thank you for considering my request to manage Moore Lake Dunes. It is a significant state resource, one I hope to enjoy visiting in my retirement!

Moore Lake Dunes is very dry sandy ecosystem that still shows the sand dunes or waves of soil from the shifting sands of the Anoka Sand Plain. The Anoka Sand Plain was managed primarily by fire and would have burned at least every ten years. In Minnesota most of these fires were set by Native Americans to clear camp sites, travel routes, and to drive, congregate and even attract game (new growth would be preferred by grazing animals). The vegetation at the dunes is fire dependant. Grazing animals and insects also contributed to the natural management of the site in the past perpetuating the existence of the prairie and oak savanna.

The late Dr. Morley (U of M professor) compiled a list of the plant species of the site in 1995 and 1996 at my request, please see the attached.

My interest in the Moore Lake Dunes began in the 1990's. I have attached a letter from Siah St. Clair dated Sept. 14, 1995 giving me permission to work on the woody invasive and exotic woody species at the site. Exotic species are detrimental to native ecosystems. They compete for space, water, and nutrients without natural controls, which controlled their numbers in foreign lands. The exotic Siberian (misnamed in Siah's letter as Chinese elm) elm have been a constant problem at this site due to a seed tree on private property in the vicinity. Some native woody species also complete unfairly in grasslands if fire is absent such as the quaking aspen, cottonwoods, and green ash trees, which need to be controlled at this site. The quaking aspen clone has expanded without fire or my constant girdling of the fringe tree sprouts (this is a colonial tree, possibly a single plant). I have removed all but two cottonwoods from the premises and one of the two was removed a few years ago with a wind storm...only one remains. The green ash trees are native to Minnesota but more common on this site because of seed trees on the school grounds across the street and the absence of fire, which would kill the ash trees in time.

I conducted a prescribed burn of the site on May 9, 2000 and a portion of the site on May 20, 2003. No other burns have been conducted on the site to my knowledge. I have some records of cutting trees and brush over the years but they are limited. The last few years Siah had been reluctant to grant me permission to managing the Dunes, I don't know why.

I would propose cutting and stump treating the buckthorn, Siberian elm, green ash, and the one remaining cottonwood tree. I am a licensed applicator in the state of Minnesota and fully insured. Nearly all of my work is done on city, county and state lands. We can pile the materials on the curb for city removal or burn the woody debris on site. I often "store" the firewood on the street curb and it disappears very quickly. A "free" sign encourages the "honest" folks.

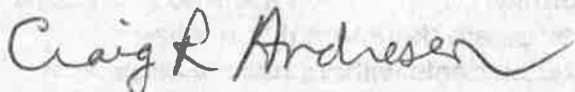
I would also propose to burn about 1/3 of the site annually. I would attempt (burning is weather dependant) to burn the exotic European brome grass areas (north and west sides of the site) frequently until this species is eliminated then reduce the frequency. If time allows, we would also burn the south leg of the site if we have time to remove the buckthorn. I am a Minnesota qualified Prescribed Burn Boss (MRXB2). Again I am fully insured for burning and recognized on the State Master Contract list for all of the above. We do controlled burns across the state for the MN DNR annually.

I offer these services on a pro bono basis. I will provide certificates of insurance and can supply references.

I will be 67 years old this year, so this is all contingent on my staying in business, etc. I thoroughly enjoy my work!

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,



Craig Andresen
President

West side of Moore Lake, Anoka Co, fenced dune area
3/4 mile N of highway 694, 1/4 mile W of highway 65
Preliminary plant list, July-Sept. 1995 and April-August 1996
T. Morley

The vegetation of this tract falls in the category of "Barrens oak savanna", as described by Woycha, Delaney, and Nordquist, in the book "Minnesota's St. Croix River Valley and Anoka Sandplain. A guide to native habitats".

Many sand-loving plants occur here, on the small remnant of a once much larger sandy area west of the lake. These plants require open sandy places to persist; occasional disturbance of the soil surface is beneficial for them, although too much of course will harm them. The dominant smooth brome on the west apparently became established with road construction and the disturbance of the adjacent ground; if it is able to intrude further east and stabilize the soil surface the sand-lovers will disappear. No attempt has been made to find and list all the lakeshore plants.

Open sandy areas:

Achillea millefolium, yarrow, occasional
Agrostis scabra; tickle grass, occasional
Ambrosia psilostachya; native ragweed, common
Amorpha canescens; leadplant, common
Aristida tuberculosa; three-awn; uncommon in the state, a sand plant very common here.
Artemisia campestris; sage, common
Asclepias syriaca, common milkweed, uncommon here
Berteroa incana; hoary alyssum, introduced, occasional
Bromus inermis; smooth brome; introduced, invasive and abundant
Calamovilfa longifolia; sand reed, a sand plant, common
Carex lasiocarpa var. *americana*, sedge, a common plant of lake shores and wet places but unusual on dunes; frequent in lower areas here
Carex muhlenbergii; sedge, a sand plant, common
Cenchrus longispinus; sand bur, a sand plant, common
Chrysopsis villosa; golden aster, common
Conyza canadensis; horseweed, common
Cycloloma atriplicifolia; winged pigweed, a sand plant, uncommon
Cyperus lupulinus; sedge, common
Cyperus schweinitzii; sedge, a sand plant, common
Eragrostis spectabilis; purple lovegrass, occasional
Euphorbia geyeri; dune spurge, a sand plant, common
Euthamia (Solidago) gymnospermoides; Great Plains flat-topped goldenrod, common
Froelichia floridana; cottonweed, a sand plant, common
Grindelia squarrosa; gumweed, occasional
Helianthus petiolaris; plains sunflower, occasional

Koeleria pyramidata; june grass, common
Lepidium sp.; pepper grass, common
Liatris aspera; blazing star, occasional
Mirabilis hirsuta; hairy umbrella-wort; uncommon here
Mollugo verticillata; carpetweed, occasional
Oenothera rhombipetala; evening primrose, uncommon in the state,
 a sand plant common here.
Panicum communianum; panic grass, a sand plant, common
Panicum virgatum; switchgrass, common
Paspalum ciliatifolium; beadgrass; a sand plant, uncommon here
Penstemon grandiflora, large-flowered penstemon, uncommon
Petalostemum villosum; downy prairie clover, a sand plant, common
Plantago patagonica; woolly plantain, common
Polygonella articulata; jointweed, a sand plant, occasional
Potentilla arguta, tall cinquefoil, uncommon here
Rhamnus frangula; buckthorn, occasional
Rubus flagellaris; dewberry, common
Rubus occidentalis, black raspberry, uncommon
Rumex acetosella; sheep sorrel, introduced, common
Salix interior; sandbar willow, common
Solidago speciosa; goldenrod, occasional
Solidago--and see *Euthamia*
Spiraea alba; meadowsweet, uncommon here
Sporobolus cryptandrus; sand dropseed, a sand plant, occasional
Stipa ~~comata~~, needlegrass, occasional
Tradescantia occidentalis, spiderwort, rare (sandy trail E side)

Wooded areas

Fraxinus pensylvanica; green ash, uncommon here
Juncus tenuis, rush, occasional near lake
Lysimachia terrestris, loosestrife, uncommon, near lake
Onoclea sensibilis, sensitive fern, uncommon
Parthenocissus quinquefolia; virginia creeper; occasional
Populus tremuloides; aspen, common
Pyrola asarifolia, shin-leaf, one plant
Quercus ellipsoidalis, northern pin oak, common
Quercus macrocarpa, bur oak, common
Rhus glabra; smooth surnac, uncommon here
Toxicodendron radicans; poison ivy; occasional

partea