

**CITY OF FRIDLEY**  
**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING – MAY 7, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Heintz called the May 7, 2018 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting to order at 6:54 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Members Present: Greg Ackerman, Mike Heintz, Dave Kondrick, Shanna Larson, EB Graham

Others Present: Debbie Dahl, Director of Community Services & Employee Resources  
Mike Maher, Springbrook Nature Center Director  
Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager-Streets and Parks

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 2, 2018 PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

MOTION by Ms. Larson, seconded by Ms. Graham, to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2018 meeting.

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

**APPROVAL OF PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA FOR MAY 7, 2018**

MOTION by Mr. Kondrick, seconded by Mr. Ackerman, to approve the agenda for the May 7, 2018 with the addition of the FCC Agreement

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

**1. STAFF REPORT**

**a. Program Update**

Ms. Dahl stated that the Program Update is included in the agenda packet for the information of the Commission members. The Update included information on the Springbrook Nature Center pavilion, soccer fields, summer recreation staff, 49er Days, Locke Park playground, town hall meeting, and the Master Parks Plan.

**b. Springbrook Nature Center Report**

The Nature Center Report included information on the Environmental Fair, Nature Center programs, Rentals, and updated construction drawings for the pavilion.

**c. Showmobile Recommendation**

Ms. Dahl stated that the showmobile is nearly 30 years old and the City is looking at selling the showmobile or getting disposing of it.

Ms. Larson asked what the city would do if they got rid of the showmobile.

Ms. Dahl stated that the city could use the amphitheater at the new civic campus or Springbrook and those will meet our needs for concerts or events. She further stated that the showmobile is not rented often and we no longer have a place to store it.

Ms. Larson stated that the showmobile is used annually at the 49er Days event.

Ms. Dahl stated that part of the Park Master Plan at Commons could include a stage or backdrop for future events.

Mr. Jensen stated that when the City made money off the showmobile, it was when other cities rented it for an event. The City of Fridley wants to focus on the needs of its residents. The city doesn't want to designate \$120,000 to haul the showmobile to St. Paul to make \$800 off the event, when we can use \$120,000 to build two amphitheaters at Commons Park that will benefit the residents of Fridley year round.

Mr. Jensen further stated that the showmobile was a good idea at the time and it made a lot of money, but none of that money went back to the showmobile. All the money spent on repairs and for a new floor, tires, lighting, broken doors, the Parks Department paid for that out of the operating supplies and that takes away from playgrounds.

Mr. Kondrick stated that the Commission should discuss this further. The information we have been given states that the showmobile makes money for the city, but we haven't been able to see what the maintenance costs are.

Ms. Dahl stated that she will get more information on repair costs and what the cost would be to replace the showmobile and bring that information back to the Commission.

**d. Civic Campus Update**

Ms. Dahl stated that the Public Works Department will be moving to the new building on June 13. The rest of City Hall will move in after the elections take place in November.

**e. Locke Park Playground Equipment Donation to Woodcrest Baptist Church**

Ms. Dahl stated that the playground equipment at Locke Park is not being used, and is looking for the Commissions input on whether to get rid of the equipment or donate it to Woodcrest church.

Mr. Ackerman asked if there was a way we could use that equipment at other parks.

Mr. Jensen stated that the equipment is a different brand then what is at parks through the city, the cost to move the equipment is very high and the equipment is not ADA compliant.

Ms. Dahl stated that the church was interested in the play equipment.

The commission agreed that donating the equipment to Woodcrest was a good idea, because the equipment is not ADA compliant and it would financially be better to build a new playground.

MOTION by Mr. Kondrick, seconded by Ms. Larson to demolish the playground equipment at Lock Park or donate the equipment to Woodcrest church.

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

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Election of Officers**

Ms. Larson nominated Mike Heintz for Chairperson and Greg Ackerman for Vice-Chairperson.

Mr. Heintz asked for a vote of all members present and all voted yes to support Mike Heintz for Chairperson and Greg Ackerman for Vice-Chairperson.

**b. Request to Close Moore Lake Beach**

Ms. Dahl stated that a Moore Lake Beach attendance record was included in the packet for the commission to show the number of people on the beach each day.

Mr. Kondrick stated that the numbers show that the beach is only busy in July. The beach has been a milestone for the City, but after looking at the numbers he agreed that we should close it. He asked what will happen with the building.

Mr. Jensen stated that part of the Master Plan will include a new design for the beach house. The shelter has sewer and water, and that is invaluable to any park. We have to work with the Watershed District and the DNR to figure out what our options are.

Ms. Dahl stated that there is a strong interest from the staff to keep the beach house and create a bigger shelter.

Ms. Dahl stated that the previous recommendation of creating a barrier on the beach front wasn't the best plan, and that it has been decided to leave the beach as is for this year. We will take the buoys out, close the building, and place signs stating that this is no longer a swimming beach.

MOTION by Ms. Larson, seconded by Ms. Graham to support removing the designation of the swimming beach at Moore Lake Park until further notice.

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

**c. Boundary Changes for Anoka County Parks and Locke Park**

Ms. Dahl stated that staff met with representatives from Anoka County Parks on April 13 to discuss the relocation of the playground at the southwest corner of the development to the southeast corner. In discussing the plans and needs, Anoka County pointed out that the City still needed to have City Council adopt a resolution to revise the regional park boundary, based on previous agreements reached between the City and County. It was advised that the resolution be adopted before work was initiated on the road within the next two weeks, so staff prepared the resolution for the April 16 meeting and expect it to get processed through the County and Met Council systems without issue.

**d. Park Tours**

Ms. Dahl stated that each year the Commission goes on a park tour in June. This year June is a busy month for staff with the new building being built. Ms. Dahl asked the Commission's opinion on scheduling the park tour for July or August when the building is complete.

The Commission agreed to reschedule the park tour for August 6 at 5:00 p.m.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Moore Lake Project Update**

Mr. Jensen stated that staff is putting together a new Master Plan while working on the 5 year CIP without knowing exactly what improvements will be included in the new Master Plan. One idea is to redo the parking lot and beach house at Moore Lake.

Mr. Ackerman stated that money has already been put aside for the parking lot renovation.

Mr. Jensen stated that was part of the old Master Plan, and when we had to put that plan on hold, the opportunity came up to build a shelter at Springbrook. We applied for a match grant for \$150,000 and the money set aside for the parking lot at Moore Lake was put towards the shelter at Springbrook.

Ms. Dahl stated that staff has met with engineers to see what changes could be done to the park without needing a permit or going to the Watershed District, and the cost was extremely high.

Ms. Dahl further stated that the engineers also had a concern with traffic and safety, and if we were going to make updates and attract more people to the park then we would need to consider fixing the road.

Ms. Dahl stated that Moore Lake is an important park, and staff is reevaluating the plan to see if improvements should also be made at other parks.

Ms. Larson stated that the Commission spent several meetings putting together the Moore Lake Master Plan, and it seemed like poor planning on the city's part to not include the Engineering Department.

Mr. Jensen stated that the plan the Commission created did not have an actual Master Plan. There wasn't a plan of how the improvements were going to be completed and there was no money asked for. There was just a 4.3 million dollar price tag put on it and it might be completed in 20 years. The Commission created more of a concept than a Master Plan. With a Master Plan an engineer would have been hired. The Parks Department tried to complete step one of the old Master Plan, which included the parking lot, and the cost would have quadrupled because of the Watershed permits needed.

Ms. Larson stated that she feels like Moore Lake could drain our funds.

Mr. Jensen stated that is why staff is putting a hold on the current plan and doing some reevaluating.

Ms. Dahl stated that staff may still use pieces of the old plan, and we will keep the Commission involved as we create the new plan.

**b. Fridley Community Center Agreement**

Mr. Heintz asked if the City is going to be charged to use the Zone space will the City charge the School District when they want to use our fields.

Ms. Dahl stated that we are currently working on that, and that it would be the City's goal to charge the School District to use fields.

Mr. Heintz stated that we shouldn't charge the youth programs, but we should charge the High School groups.

Ms. Dahl stated that she met with Community Education last week and confirmed that they plan to use the Zone space and the gym for their programs, which is the space we needed to have a drop in program at the Community Center.

Discussion continued on the future of teen programs.

Ms. Larson stated that part of the Master Plan should be to assess the parking lot at the skating rink to make the warming house larger to use as a park and rec multipurpose building.

Ms. Dahl stated that we can look into that as well as the possibility of adding on to the Commons Park shelter.

Mr. Ackerman asked how many participants attend the Zone.

Ms. Dahl stated that the Zone has about 30 participants per week.

Ms. Dahl further stated that at the June Commission meeting we will provide a copy of the enrollment history for the last few years. The enrollment history will include afterschool programs, rental numbers, and revenue.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Ackerman, seconded by Ms. Larson, to adjourn the May 7, 2018 meeting at 8:45 p.m.

UPON A VOICE VOTE, ALL MEMBERS VOTING AYE, CHAIRPERSON HEINTZ DECLARED THE MOTION CARRIED AND THE May 7, 2018 MEETING ADJOURNED.