

BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Special Park Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.
Brainerd City Hall Council Chambers

I. Call to Order

II. Old Business

A. Lunkers Restroom Status

III. New Business

A. Funding Request

IV. Director's Report

V. Public Forum

VII. Additions to Agenda

BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Special Park Board Meeting
April 15, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.
City Hall Conference Room

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the special meeting of the
Parks and Recreation Board was called to order at 3:32 p.m.

Present were Chairman Marty Johnson, Greg Roberts, Howard "Jiggs" Blanck, Brian Phelps, City Council Liaison Anne Nelson Fisher and Park Director Wayne Mooney. Also noted present was Joel Sutherland of Brainerd Lakes Area Lunkers. Barb Egan was noted absent.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Lunkers Restroom Status

Director Mooney reported that he researched lease-to-own options with a trailer restroom vendor, and the total cost was very expensive. The rental cost was about \$11,000 for the summer, and the quote included an option to purchase for \$20,500 at the end of the season. The Parks and Recreation Department would have also been responsible for hookups and maintenance. Costs were too high for the team to proceed with renting a restroom trailer.

Lunkers owner Joel Sutherland submitted a request asking the Park Board to consider contributing \$2,500 for portable restrooms at Mills Field. He stated he doesn't think the restroom responsibility is his. The Board acknowledged the need for upgraded restroom facilities, but there is no budget money available for a new building. Following considerable discussion, board members decided to direct staff to spruce up the existing restroom facilities and authorized expenditure of \$2,000 for the required handicapped-accessible satellite and additional units. Motion by Mr. Blanck; seconded by Mr. Roberts. Board approval was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Funding Request

Director Mooney presented information about a high priority project (HPP) grant opportunity for Trailside Park. The Trailside Park master plan contains a number of features that will enhance the Paul Bunyan Trail and likely meet requirements for submitting a funding request. The request for trail enhancements would be for \$869,003 that would include a parking lot and restroom building on the east side of the park, as well as 3,600 feet of trail with a lookout tower and educational signage. HPP funds pay for up to 80% of the project costs. The remaining 20% would come from the park dedication fund if approved by the Park Board. Approximately \$174,000 will be available in the park dedication fund if the DNR grant is unsuccessful. The DNR grant application was submitted for some of the same work for which HPP funds are requested. If both the DNR grant and the HPP funding request are successful, it will be possible for both funding sources to be used to improve the park.

Mr. Mooney asked the Board for approval to submit the HPP funding request, approval to use park dedication funds for local match if needed, a letter of support from the board chair, and a recommendation that City Council give approval to staff to submit the funding request.

Mr. Phelps made a motion to proceed, Mr. Roberts seconded the motion, and board approval was unanimous.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PUBLIC FORUM

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 27, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in the conference room at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made at 4:02 p.m. by Mr. Roberts. Mr. Phelps seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist