

BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Regular Park Board Meeting
Monday, September 28, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.
Brainerd City Hall Conference Room

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Consent Calendar

(All matters listed in this form are considered routine by the board and will be enacted by one motion.)

- A. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held August 31, 2009, as distributed
- B. Approval of the disbursements for the month of September 2009

III. Old Business

- A. Lunkers Update – Joel Sutherland
- B. 2010 Budget Status
- C. "Garfield Lots" Park Name

IV. New Business

- A. Bane Park Parking Lot
- B. Campground Fees

V. Director's Report

VI. Public Forum

VII. Additions to Agenda

BRAINERD PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Regular Park Board Meeting
September 28, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.
City Hall Conference Room

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regular meeting of the
Parks and Recreation Board was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

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

MOVED AND SECONDED BY PHELPS AND BLANCK,
DULY CARRIED TO APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PRESENTED

- A. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held August 31, 2009**
- B. Approval of the disbursements for the month of September 2009**

OLD BUSINESS

A. Lunkers Update – Joel Sutherland

Joel Sutherland was in attendance to give a synopsis of the Lunkers' year. He said it was a good year that met expectations, and considering the tough economy, a late (February) start with marketing, tough weather and following on the heels of tough management, it was an excellent year. He commented on the great maintenance staff of Devin, Brian and Scott. He looks forward to working with Director Mooney on a new lease. The Northwoods League president noted during a visit to Mills Field that the field lights are dim, and Mr. Sutherland would like to see that improvement to the facility. He reported that it was phenomenal to get the restrooms put in. He commented on how big Mills Field is, and said that 80-85% of the major league parks would fit inside Mills Field. This affects player stats, and ultimately is a recruiting issue for this market. Mr. Blanck asked if a chain link fence could be put inside the existing fence, or if the fence could be moved. He also asked if Public Utilities could do a lighting study and perhaps reset poles. Mr. Sutherland thinks the lease is very fair, and he would like to see things happen to develop funding for improvements, such as 50/50 raffles and bonding. He introduced Dustin Anaas, an intern this year who will be playing an important role with the Lunkers in the upcoming year.

B. 2010 Budget Status

Director Mooney reported that the Park Board's budget recommendations were sent to the Personnel and Finance Committee. City Council acknowledged receipt and would take the Board's recommendations under advisement. Ms. Fisher said that Council will discuss what it can at its October 13th budget meeting, but is waiting for the state budget information that comes out in November.

C. Garfield Lots

Director Mooney was unable to find information in the archives referencing a park name for the park property known as the "Garfield Lots". Mr. Blanck explained that Joe Gustafson originally donated the land to Garfield School, and the school district in turn donated it to the city. The property was designated as parkland in 1990 by the City Council. Mr. Blanck would like the park named after Joe Gustafson. He said there is a greater need for this park now, due to the parking lot that the school district built at the Washington School property. We lost one of three fields that we used over there for youth programs. He went on to say that Joe Gustafson did a lot for the community and helped a lot of people build homes. He made a motion to name the park Gustafson Park. Mr. Phelps seconded, and board approval was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Bane Park Parking Lot

Director Mooney presented a 2002 Engineering Department plan for paving Bane Park, with current costs applied. Following a brief discussion, board members reiterated that Jaycees Park is their number one priority for improvements.

B. Campground Fees

Director Mooney asked the Board to consider a \$2/night increase to the Lum Park Campground daily rate, which would change the rate from \$28/night to \$30/night. The last increase was in 2006, before internet service was available to campers. The state sales tax increase of .375%, effective 7/1/09, impacted net campground revenue. Mr. Blanck made a motion to raise the Lum Park Campground rate to \$30/night. Mr. Phelps seconded the motion, and board approval was unanimous.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Mooney touched briefly on recreation program participant numbers, which showed a small increase in 2009. Mr. Blanck asked about comparisons with the neighboring communities of Baxter and Nisswa, as well as a comparable city such as Alexandria.

Three arena employees were laid off. Mr. Blanck asked about the fourth arena employee. Mr. Mooney responded that the 4th position has been working only ¼ to 1/3 of his time at the arena, and is considered a Park Department employee. This position is proposed as 100% Parks Department for 2010.

Mr. Phelps, who serves on the Main Street Committee, said the committee asked about the lack of hanging baskets downtown this year. Discussion focused on the cost of watering the baskets at least once per day. It was suggested that a maintenance service district might have to be implemented for various downtown maintenance tasks, including having the garbage containers emptied on a regular basis.

PUBLIC FORUM

A. Board Chairman Marty Johnson thanked the Board for the memorial tree that was planted recently at Gregory Park in memory of his daughter-in-law.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 26, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in the conference room at City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made at 4:25 p.m. by Mr. Phelps. Mr. Blanck seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Finch, Administrative Specialist