

# Minutes

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City of Falcon Heights, Park and Recreation Commission Meeting  
July 9, 2012  
6:30PM  
City Hall

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*Meeting Chair:* Melissa Weber-Sanders

*Minutes By:* Michelle Tesser

*Present members:* Serena Jones-White, Matthew Waite (absent), Lonetta Hanson (absent), Tom Keene

*Youth member:* Luke Mielke

*Staff:* Michelle Tesser, Tim Pittman

*Council Liaison:* Keith Gosline (absent)

1. **Meeting called to order 6:30 PM**
2. **Approval of May 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes (*submitted by Jessica Anderson*)**  
Several small changes of the minutes were noted. Minutes were unanimously approved with corrections. Weber-Sanders/Jones-White
3. **Summer Program Update**
  - Tesser went through summer program highlights specifically addressing how well CTC (Commonwealth Terrace) soccer classes were going and the plan for a soccer game against CTC and Community Park kids. Tesser also discussed the Planting and Cooking class garden tour at resident Tom Staffa's backyard.
  - Mid-session surveys went out to all parent emails on 7/3/12 and mid-session evaluations of staff are currently being conducted by Allie.
4. **Meet and Greet/Movie in the Park Recap**
  - Meet and Greet  
The attendance at the Meet and Greet was about 10-15 families. There were plenty of little ones in attendance to meet their coaches. We believe this helped them transition into the programs easier. Also, kids were able to play sports during the Meet and Greet which gave them

the opportunity to try other sports as well. The Meet and Greet was successful and will be done again next year.

- **Movie and Camping in the Park: The Muppets**  
The equipment rental and technician that was responsible for the set up and tear down went smoothly. The concession stand was not a big hit but we made \$9.50 (approx. \$70.00 was spent). The movie started at 9:30pm (dusk). Mosquitos were awful but we still had around 100 attendees for the movie. Potential morning thunderstorms caused some families to tear down their tents and go home. Out of 14 tents reserved only 5 tents remained.

#### **5. Recycling compost bins (paper products) coming soon to Community Park**

- Tesser shared with commissioners that Ramsey County Public Health is currently looking into providing cities with compost bins specifically for paper products from picnics/parties etc. Jean Buckley, is currently ironing out the details. The plan is to have the bins available to cities next summer.

#### **6. Summer Event Planning**

- **Ice cream Social July 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Tesser has reserved the two bouncy castles, band and dunk tank, contacted environment/energy agencies, ordered banner, talked to the Lions regarding volunteering in the kitchen and putting up two tents and Tesser advertised the event (flyers, press releases, facebook/twitter). If the event is as popular as it was last year we will have over 500 attendees. Staff will be tight since we have three less summer staff and two additional bouncy castles to staff. City staff will be doing a summer survey during the event. The Parks commission is against any type of free ice cream or root beer float as a reward for completing the survey.
- **5k Family Fun/Rul Walk September 29<sup>th</sup>**  
This year the run has been moved to Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> instead of the first weekend in August. The main reason for the date change is due to primary elections which Lauderdale does themselves. September 29<sup>th</sup> was chosen because it is the weekend before the Twin Cities marathon and marathon runners usually run small distances the week before a huge race. Also, the run date did not conflict with other runs in the area. The deadline for the run is August 29<sup>th</sup>. If we do not have at least 35-50 runners registered we will cancel. The lesson was learned last year when we only had 20 runners. In 2010, we had over 100 runners most pre-registered.

#### **7. Tobacco Free Parks Ordinance**

The tobacco free parks ordinance was passed by the council on Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. The TFYR provides free signs that read: Tobacco Free Grounds: No Tobacco Use on this park property. Signs will be posted around city parks. The commission discussed locations of the signs at each park and requested all entries into the park to have a sign posted. A sign will be posted at the CP building and playground area. The Parks commission requested 12 signs in total for our three parks. Tesser will put the order into TFYR and have the signs posted before the ICS event.

## **8. Policy Evaluation and Recommendation. Sec 34-22 Unlawful Sales**

Tesser received a request from a resident to rent Community Park for a bake sale. Proceeds would go to a non-profit organization. Under City Code, Parks, Sec 34-22 Unlawful Sales, No person shall sell or offer for sale, any object, merchandise or service or conduct any commercial enterprise except concessions invited by the city in conjunction with city-sponsored events or activities. Based on the city code, Tesser denied this type of use of the Community Park building. The Mayor was advised of this code and situation. The mayor asked that the Parks Commission evaluate and recommend whether the code should be revised. Tesser discussed the situation with the commission but did not disclose the resident's name. Tesser provided the commission with five (St. Paul, Roseville, New Brighton, Vadnais Heights and Minneapolis) cities current codes/policies on their practices. Four out of the five cities did allow this type of activity at their parks however, each required a board, commission or council to permit the use through means of a special permit, solicitors permit etc.

The commission discussed the code at length and the negatives of changing the code to allow selling of merchandise including having a bake sale. The commission voted and all four commissioners voted against the revision of the code for several reasons: #1 health and safety issues that go along with the selling of food (baked goods) and safety issues with a large event. Commissioners feel that if attendees got sick or hurt at the event the city could be liable #2 the commissioners feel that the park should not have any commercial enterprises and commented that if the code was revised the language could open our parks up to vendor use during the State Fair and Back to the 50's. #3 the commissioners feels that there are other options residents could use such as the free pavilion at Rainbow Foods on Larpenteur Ave. #4 the commission feels that it's the right of the council to make an exception to this code if it deems appropriate.

In regards to the resident's argument that the Lions use the Community Park for Christmas Tree sales, the commission believes that the Lions paid for a portion of the building and may have an agreement with the city about using the building. Also, since the tree sale has occurred for more years than the commissioners can remember the commission is

under the belief that the Christmas tree sale must have been grandfathered in before the ordinance was enacted in 1997.

## **9. Staff Reports:**

### ➤ **Public Works Update**

- Catch basin repair
- Tree trimming/Mowing is in the works
- Street sign replacement is taking place
- Sidewalk work will begin soon at California and Idaho.

## **10. New Business**

- Commission members would like to note that after the Capitol Watershed district makes their recommendation about water run off at Curtiss Field, the Commission would like to request a permanent rink be built at Curtiss Field (similar to North Dale Recreation Center) where rollerblading can be done in the summer and ice skating in the winter.
- A resident has requested staff look into starting adult Pickle ball. Tesser stated that staff did look into Pickle ball. There are several reasons why Pickle ball will not be added to recreation programming. #1 start-up cost/finding instructors #2 Declining participation numbers at other cities Parks and Recreation departments #3 Staff wants to begin adult Tennis.
- Next meeting: Monday, August 13, 2012 at 6:30p.m.

## **11. Adjournment – 8:00pm**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Michelle Tesser. If there are any corrections or additions, please contact Michelle Tesser by phone at 651-792-7617 or by email at [Michelle.tesser@falconheights.org](mailto:Michelle.tesser@falconheights.org)