

**City of Falcon Heights
Parks & Recreation Commission**

MEETING MINUTES

City Hall

Monday, January 14th

6:30 p.m.

X Melissa Weber-Sanders, Chair

ab Serena Jones-White

X Tom Keene

X Christina Erickson

X Gordon Strom

X Staff Michelle Tesser

X Staff Tim Pittman

X Council Liaison Chuck Long

1. Call to order- 6:30pm
2. Approval of November 19th meeting minutes- Approved
3. Welcome to new Council Liaison Chuck Long
4. Winter Updates (Rinks, Events, Programming)

A. Rinks

Rinks have had great attendance (January 5th – 47 January 6th- 30). Last weekend, the rinks were closed due to the rain and warm weather. Rinks reopened Monday January 14th. Tesser was asked by users of the rinks to reexamine rink and warming house hours to be at 9pm. Tesser will look into adjusting hours if attendance is high at 8pm. Chair Weber-Sanders wondered why the warming house wasn't open during New Year's Day. Tesser explained the rinks formed quicker than expected so finding staff last minute was difficult but the warming house was opened at 4pm on New Year's Day and officially opened January 2nd.

Pittman added that there is no pleasure rink at the Falcon Heights Elementary School this year because the Principal asked not to have the ice because it was too difficult for kids to get off skates in time for classes. Grove Park does not have a pleasure rink again this year. Staff has not received complaints. Staff has flooded for ice at Community Park for the city's Winterfest event.

B. Events

Skating the Park is scheduled on Monday, January 21st (free hot cocoa) Two staff will be on during the event and are asked to skate around and be welcoming to the staff.

Winterfest is scheduled on Sunday, January 27th 1pm-4pm. Tesser confirmed the dog sledding rides but lack of snow may mean cancellation so Tesser has Roselawn

Stables as a back-up on that day with horse drawn hayrides so kids are not disappointed. Tesser asked for creative ideas for hiding the falcon since snow is minimal. Flyers went to Brimhall and Falcon Heights Elementary to advertise the event. Press Releases were sent to newspapers. Tesser requested help from Commissions to volunteer during the event. Chuck Long agreed to volunteer to assist during the event.

C. Programming

Winter Break Adventure Camp (11 kids) went very well, loved snowshoeing. Profit \$225.00

5. Summer Planning

A. Programs (Changes or Additions)

Red Cross Babysitting Training- April 27th 9am-4pm \$65.00

Summer Survival School Camp (SAPD)

Flag Football Camp

Revamp Adventure Camp with Climbing Wall and Geo Caching

Harry Potter Camp script writing, acting on stage, quiddich

Soccer Camp

Do not offer Basketball or Basketball Camp but will add Basketball to Pee Wee Sports

Sampler and Sports Sampler Camp

Baking Class

SNAG Golf Camp (cost of start-up may be too much to afford this year)

B. Events (Changes or Additions)

Parents Night Off

Tesser discussed offering a Summer Friday night off for parents. Parents can drop off kids at Community Park for a small nominal fee. Tesser will advertise to recreation participants. A movie, games and crafts are activities that were discussed.

Movie in the Park and Fitness Challenge- Tesser suggested doing some type of fitness challenge before the movie begins because kids seem to have a hard time waiting for the sky to get dark enough for the movie to start. Tesser suggested tug-o-war, sack races, egg races, balance beam, hula hoop contest. Commissioner Long suggested bringing the kids to the different exercise stations around the park and those that accomplish all the activities get a free bag of popcorn.

Ice Cream Social

Tesser discussed doing some type of Artistic Sidewalk Challenge if new sidewalk panels are put in this year at the park.

Winter: Bundle Up in Coats/Movie

Tesser suggested offering a movie at City Hall and using the movie to help collect coats before the winter. Tesser suggested October. Advertising would be something like warm hearts by helping others in need with a winter clothing drive and special movie.

Winter: Santa Letters or Santa Call

Tesser suggested partaking in the holiday spirit by having kids write to santa and mail their letters to the city hall. Tesser will send back a post card from Santa. Or she

suggested setting up weather hotline that is not used from mid-October to end of December with Santa's voice message and they can leave a message.

6. Approval of Brimhall and Falcon Heights Elementary recreation donation
Commission unanimously agreed to send \$50.00 donations to the schools.

7. Active Recruitment to fill vacancies on Parks Commission

Tesser asked commissioners to write letters, ask friends/family, email personal requests to neighbors to help fill the commissions vacancies. The Commission can have up to nine on a Commission. We have a total of five since Hanson and Waite ended there terms.

8. U of M Good Neighbor Fund Grant

Tesser talked to the commission about the U of M Grant. The purpose of this grant must be to *enhance and protect the beauty, serenity and security of the communities impacted by the operation of the University of Minnesota's on campus football stadium.* Falcon Heights is impacted by parking available at the State Fair. The amount of funds available in the grant is \$47,500. The theme is "good neighbors collaborate". Ideas discussed were: signage, landscaping to replace Cleveland median, assistance to help beautify Curtiss Field (weed removal.), lighting at Curtiss Field. Commissioners asked if more than one proposal can be submitted. Tesser will look into this. In the meantime, Tesser asked commissioners to brainstorm and email her if they come up with any ideas.

9. Noxious Weed Plan

Pittman discussed current weed treatment at Parks which is mainly pulling weeds and burning every 2-3 years.

The commission decided to seek help with drafting the plan through students at the U of M. Tesser will contact Beth Mercer-Taylor for suggested on how to contact professors/departments etc. Commissioners also would like the DNR involved in the implementation of the plan.

10. Curtiss Field Park Time Closure and Sign Change

- Number of police reports
- Number of signage to be replaced rough cost estimates- Tim Pittman
- Cities parks closure times

Tesser went through the last year's police reports for Curtiss Field. The number of reports was very minimal (3 reports from May through September) and there were no suspicious activity reports later than 7:45pm.

The number of signs it would take to replace would be three and the replacement costs would be approximately \$300.00.

Tesser presented on the number of city's park closure times, most are between 10pm or 11pm. None were at 9pm or dusk.

Andover 11pm, Eden Prairie 10pm, Three Rivers 10pm, Buffalo 10pm, St. Paul 11pm, Minneapolis 10pm (not including sports), Roseville 10pm.

Based on the evidence shown, the Commission decided not to pursue changing the park closure time.

11. Public Works Report:

Pittman discussed barricade project, plowing and other inside projects PW staff is currently completing.

12. New Business

The Community Garden responsibilities were formerly the Environment Commissions. But since Justin's departure in December, Tesser took over the management of the plot assignments, revenue collection, event and room reservation. Pittman continues to manage the community garden grounds (supplies purchasing, mulch delivery, waste pick-up). Therefore, it makes the most sense for the Parks and Recreation Commission to take over this responsibility and keeping the duties with Pittman and Tesser. Administrator Fischer agreed to this change. Pittman discussed the need of a new fence around the garden. Pittman received a proposal for installation of a fence in the amount of \$3,000. Tesser suggested asking the Lions to help with the cost of the fence. Tesser asked Pittman to get another fence proposal so she could ask the Lions.

Next meeting dates: Monday, February 11th
Monday, March 11th