

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**City Hall**

Monday, July 8th

**6:30 p.m.**

X Melissa Weber-Sanders, Chair

ab Serena Jones-White

X Christina Erickson

X Gordon Strom

X Mary Hannon Jacobson

X Dave Thomas

X Liz Asmus

X Staff Michelle Tesser

X Staff Tim Pittman

X Council Liaison Chuck Long

1. Call to order- 6:30pm
2. Approval of June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes- Approved Hannon-Jacobson and Dave Thomas
3. Tom Keene's resignation from Commission  
Tom Keene had to resign for medical reasons.
4. Park Playgrounds and maintenance

Tesser received confirmation from the League of MN Cities Loss Control Consultant, Tara Bursey stated that the Minnesota Wisconsin Playgrounds audit list results are valid in its assessment of the Parks' playground equipment.

Commission members requested a priority list be developed based on immediate safety needs. Gordon Strom volunteered to help put the list together.

Commissioners asked Tesser to look into what kind of liability the city has in playground safety from City Attorney, Roger Knutson. Tesser received Roger's opinion below:

*The City has pretty good, not absolute, immunity from park and rec. claims, but safety is an issue even if liability is not. (See MN State 466.03 Exceptions)*

**MINNESOTA STATUTES**

### **466.03 EXCEPTIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** Section 466.02 does not apply to any claim enumerated in this section.

As to any such claim every municipality shall be liable only in accordance with the applicable statute and where there is no such statute, every municipality shall be immune from liability.

Subd. 6e. **Parks and recreation areas.** Any claim based upon the construction, operation, or maintenance of any property owned or leased by the municipality that is intended or permitted to be used as a park, as an open area for recreational purposes, or for the provision of recreational services, or from any claim based on the clearing of land, removal of refuse, and creation of trails or paths without artificial surfaces, if the claim arises from a loss incurred by a user of park and recreation property or services. Nothing in this subdivision limits the liability of a municipality for conduct that would entitle a trespasser to damages against a private person, except as provided in subdivision 23.

5. Pickle Ball at Coffman

Because of lack of quorum for the last two meetings Tesser went over the Pickle Ball discussion with Commissioners. The final decision is to wait until there are more interested residents (approx 30). The cost to buy Pickle Ball equipment and have staff to set up the courts needs to be considered cost effective and used by a larger amount of constituents.

6. Update on Summer Program Enrollment and Revenue

August camps registration are going somewhat slow, Tesser hopes that similar to Spring she gets last minute registrations.

7. Update on Summer Event Planning

The Movie in the Park event was one for the books with one of the worst storms Falcon Heights has seen in many years. Tesser had the event inside the park building but the storm took out the electricity 15 minutes into the movie. The storm passed within twenty minutes and people left. The electricity was taken out by a downed tree. There was about 25 people in attendance.

Parents Night Out is Friday July 19<sup>th</sup> the Parks and Rec department has been receiving a good amount of registrations.

ICS is Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. Tesser asked for volunteers to help out with the ICS including ticket purchasing and staffing the Parks and Rec Commission table. Several commissioners volunteered. Tesser has confirmed the band, jumping castle, and ice cream vendor.

8. Donation and Scholarship Funds Received

Tesser received \$650.00 in scholarship funding (total of \$1,000) from Commonwealth Terrace as part of their Joint Partnership with Falcon Heights

Parks and Recreation to continue to offer programs at CTC and other Falcon Heights' locations for scholarship recipients.

Tesser received \$500.00 from the lions club for a new Community Garden fence. Pete Lindstrom received a complaint from a gardener saying that they didn't want a new fence. Chair Weber-Sanders looked at the fence and notice the south end falling down. The Commissioners felt overwhelming that a new fence would be more ascetically pleasing and would keep critters out. Tesser will put out a survey to the Community Gardeners to ask their opinion about the fence.

9. Public Works Report:

Pittman discussed street improvement project, sidewalk replacement, sanitary sewer clean/televised.

10. New Business

Mary Hannon Jacobson brought up that she would like to change the process meeting minutes are done. She would like to have minutes on a type of collaborative software for all commissioners to see and add comments. Mary would like this item discussed when she returns.

11. Public Forum:

See separate attachment that is ongoing during park visits and forum. This will be reviewed with commissioners.