

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

MEETING MINUTES

**City Hall
Monday, May 13th
6:30 p.m.**

X Melissa Weber-Sanders, Chair
ab Serena Jones-White
ab Tom Keene
ab Christina Erickson
X Gordon Strom
X Mary Hannon Jacobson
ab Liz Asmus

X Staff Michelle Tesser
X Staff Tim Pittman
X Council Liaison Chuck Long

1. Call to order- 6:30pm
2. Approval of April 8th meeting minutes- Approved
3. Welcome New Parks and Recreation Commissioner Liz Asmus - Tabled (absent)
4. Discussion on Park Playgrounds Inspection Results -
Pittman provided photos and an opinion from Harlan Lehman, Minnesota/Wisconsin Playgrounds representative regarding the condition of our playgrounds. Assessment is attached to the minutes. The commission briefly discussed Mr. Lehman's assessment and viewed recent photos of playground equipment at Community Park, Grove Park and Curtiss Field.

Council member Chuck Long requested staff to further research the state requirements of playgrounds including state code, cities legal obligation and MN Best Practices to get a better idea of what playground equipment may or may not be subjected to compliance.

5. Request to Council for Designation of Funds to Park Budget for Future Improvements
Tesser discussed the Capital Improvement List and how the estimated life on Park amenities including playgrounds is coming to the replacement year. Currently there is no money in the budget for any improvements. All improvements were spent on the Tennis court replacement at Community Park in

2011. All revenue from Park/Rec Programming in 2012 (+12,649.45) goes into the General Fund. Each year the Park fund is given \$20,000 to assist with Tesser's salary. Tesser recommends paying for this amount out of the Administrative Budget thus allowing the Park/Rec Programming profit to go into the Capital Improvement fund year after year.

Tesser pointed out that most cities have a park dedication fund which are funds given to the city by new businesses earmarked toward capital park improvements. But since the city has no possible developments this is not a viable revenue source so other creative ideas of funding need to be looked at.

**Because of the lack of a quorum at the Commission meeting, no decision could be voted on.

6. Update on Spring/Summer Program Enrollment

Enrollment is going well. There are some highlights to enrollment to share with the commission such as the quick filling of Summer Discovery Camp afternoons, Tennis in the Family, Blastball, Messy Art, Little Kickers and Pee Wee Tennis. We have good numbers on Mini and Extreme soccer, Great Adventure Camp and Tennis Camps. Safety Camp has good numbers with the joint collaboration with St. Anthony, Lauderdale and Falcon Heights. Unfortunately super soccer, pee wee sampler (morning) and Tennis 8-9 (morning) may have to be cancelled. With over 49 programs being offered three possible cancellations is tolerable. Registrations could come in last minute so we hope to get registrations in those three aforementioned programs.

7. Pickle Ball at Grove

In the Spring Newsletter Tesser asked if people were interested in Pickle Ball to call her. She has been taking down people's names. So far there is 8 interested people. To purchase equipment the cost would be upward of \$750. Tesser asked if the commission thought that his amount was feasible with the lack of interest.

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8. Update on Movie in the Park

Staff is changing vendors this year for the Movie in the Park event. Changing vendors allows us to have the availability of an inflatable screen for the Movie in the Park. The charge is an additional \$50.00. But the screen is also large (12x12) and brings a more professional appeal than the (9x9) pop up screen we've done in the past.

9. Update on Grant Submission for Community Garden Fence, Cleveland Beautification Project and Community Garden Plant and Cooking Naturally Program

-Tesser has not received word from the Lions on the Community Garden fence. She hopes to hear word by the next PRC meeting.

-Tesser applied for and received a \$9,000 grant from the U of M Stadium Advisory Group for the Cleveland Beautification Project to replace the diseased trees with new trees (Elm variety) on the Cleveland median between Roselawn and Larpenteur Ave.

-Tesser has not received an update on the Community Garden Plant and Cooking Naturally Program (2013 Midwest Community Garden Grant).

10. Volunteer Clean-up Community Park and Volunteer Gardener for Curtiss Field
The city has given trash bags and assisted with garbage bag pickup to help a church organization, local Girl Scout troop and Coffman to clean our parks.

The city received a call from a Idaho Ave resident who would like to donate her time to help clean the flower beds/wet land around Curtiss Field. After the CRWD studies are complete we will know exactly what needs to be done and the projected time completion. Therefore we asked the resident to hold off on cleaning the flower beds until after the project is complete.

11. Public Works Report:

Pittman discussed current projects: street sweeping, blvd shaping, streetscape identification/ layout and mowing.

12. New Business

No new business.

Next meeting dates: Monday, June 10th at City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave.
Monday, July 8th at Community Park, 2050 Roselawn Ave.