

**CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS**

Joint Meeting

Parks & Recreation Commission  
Community Engagement Commission

City Hall

2077 West Larpentour Avenue

**MINUTES**

May 6, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:38 PM

B. ROLL CALL:

Jeff Yager\_\_\_\_\_ Mike Bradbury\_\_X\_\_ Eric Brenton\_\_X\_\_  
Bob Haight\_\_X\_\_ Tom Faust\_\_X\_\_ Randi Lundell\_\_X\_\_ Erin Williams\_\_\_\_\_

Cooley-Kistler\_\_X\_\_ Ebbesen\_\_X\_\_ Lindstrom\_\_\_\_Stockford\_\_X\_\_  
Wang\_\_X\_\_ Leighton\_\_\_\_ King \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCIL LIAISON:

James Wassenberg \_\_X\_\_

Melanie Leehy \_\_X\_\_

STAFF PRESENT:

Kelly Nelson\_\_X\_\_

Elke van der Werff \_\_X\_\_

C. PRESENTATION: N/A

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. March 18, 2024 – Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes - Joint Meeting - Community Engagement Commission
2. April 3, 2024 – Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes - Joint Meeting - City Council Workshop

Brenton and Faust motion to approve the Park minutes; approved 5-0

E. AGENDA:

**1. Spring Together 2024 Event**

City Staff, Nelson, gives updates on which tasks has been completed and asks Commissioner Brenton if he was able to find all necessary equipment for open mic portion of event.

Brenton says that he has a PA, speakers and four microphones to bring for open mic. He recommends having a signup sheet that is first-come, first served.

Leehy asks if Brenton would be able to accommodate someone who brings an MP4 to play background music, for example.

Brenton says that will be fine! He says that we will need two outlets, surge protectors and extension cords.

The commissioners discuss how many tents and tables will be needed at the event and also discuss what shift they can cover.

The check in tent is where attendees receive their ticket for a free ice cream treat. The Parks and Rec Commission will have a table to gather feedback for a future Curtiss Field amenity at and to also promote free programming in the park this summer. CEC will have a table where attendees can view a neighborhood map and get nametags.

Haight asks if the apartments next to the park were notified.

van der Werff says that she notified apartment owners and asked them to share the information with residents.

## **2. Ice Cream Social 2024 Event**

Nelson asks the commissioners if she can confirm the Finn Band to perform.

Lundell mentions MN Sings as a way to find a performer.

van der Werff says that maybe talent at Spring Together's open mic may lead to a performer for next year's Ice Cream Social.

Nelson and van der Werff talk about the possible locations for Spring Together. Community Park remains uncertain due to the demolition and construction timeline. If the event is held there, the building would not be usable due to not having electricity connected to it at that point. Another option is at City Hall. The challenge there is parking elsewhere and not having kids near Larpenteur Ave. A third possibility is to partner with Lauderdale, who will have their own City celebration the same night and they are also celebrating 75 years as a City.

Stockford says that even if demolition has not yet begun, the construction company may have equipment parked and areas fenced off. He thinks we should not consider the park as an option because of the uncertainty.

Bradbury says that this particular year, with both Cities celebrating 75 years and hosting events the same night, might be a good chance to partner.

Stockford mentions that the commissions discussed partnering with Lauderdale last year but can't recall the reason it didn't move forward.

Nelson says that she recalls that the commissioners were looking ahead to construction at Community Park and wanted one last year with the existing park building and the existing event before wanting to discuss partnering up.

Lundell says that this year is unique and would be a good time to test out a joint event.

Leehy suggests checking the City's insurance policy to make sure we would have coverage if held on non-Falcon Heights grounds.

Stockford mentions how Costco is supportive of community events and often makes donations.

Leehy suggests having a treasure hunt.

Commissioners prefer a joint event with Lauderdale. They advise Nelson to schedule a meeting to discuss this further and then ask to be provided with a meeting summary.

F. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENT

**1. Community Park Update**

Nelson says that HCM Architects and WSB have a target date of May 10<sup>th</sup> to provide their design packages to Kraus-Anderson to prepare the work to go out for bids. Kraus-Anderson thought they would need about two weeks after that to get things ready on their end.

**2. Summer Programming Update**

Nelson has received some applications for summer staff. If the City is well-staffed for programming and if staff is able and willing to take on additional hours, then the City could add summer programming on Tuesday evenings.

G. ADJOURNMENT: 8:05 P.M.

Cooley-Kistler motions to adjourn the meeting;  
Approved 9-0