

Crystal Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
March 4, 2015
Crystal Community Center
Approved April 1, 2015

The Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Erin Kolb. Commission members in attendance were: Lori Merriam, Lynn Haney, Lassana Bamba Jr., Michael McClain, Steve Hildre and Tom Jungroth. Also present were Elizabeth Dahl, Council Liaison; Brad Fortin, and Gene Hackett from the city staff. Guests included: ReNae Bowman representing the Environmental Quality Commission and Troy Gilchrist from the City Attorney's Office.

The minutes were approved as sent.

Introductions of guests and Commission members were made.

Ms. Bowman informed the Commission of the "Tech Dump" that was taking place in the pool parking lot on Saturday April 12. She asked the Commission members to help publicize the event.

Mr. Gilchrist instructed the Commission members on the state Open Meeting Law and its implication for the Commission. Items discussed included the components of the law as well as various situations such as sub-committees, email and social media.

The Commission discussed food and beverage at the Community Center. Mr. Gilchrist gave a summary of the state laws regarding food, catering and alcoholic beverages. The current CCC policies meet state laws and county ordinances where applicable. Other policies were written based on the level of risk and exposure that could put the city open to potential lawsuits and its reputation in jeopardy. Currently these policies are very conservative. The Commission discussed the merit of more restrictive policies versus lost revenue and customer service. The main issues for food service without alcohol are:

- allowing pot luck type events
- ability to utilize commercially prepared food and;
- utilize any caterer – not just those on the preferred caterer list, all which are currently not allowed.

Commission discussed having less restrictions on smaller groups and directed staff to research such a proposal for review at the next meeting. Commission members understood the state laws regarding alcohol service and weren't looking to change those policies.

The website sub-committee is meeting at 6pm on Wednesday April 1.

The Commission discussed Long Range Plan priorities. More discussion is needed at the next meeting but items including Becker Park renovations and Yunker Park updates came out with high ratings.

The Commission reviewed the agenda items for the March 12 work session.

Continued

Minutes: March 2015

Staff gave the monthly reports, highlighting major activities.

Ms. Dahl gave to City Council report. The Council voted to pay cash for the Public Works building. There is an information meeting on the railroad project on Saturday.

Ms. Haney informed the group that the Frolics button contest flyers are out. The Commission will judge them at the next meeting.

Mr. Jungroth reported on the last Crystal Business Association meeting. The Recreation and Parks Department will host the meeting on May 20.

Mr. Fortin updated the Commission on the construction of the new Public Works Building.

Commission members were reminded of the bowling fundraiser for the Crystal Fund/Light of Crystal.

Mr. Jungroth said that the School District 281 Empty Bowls event was a huge success.

The Crystal Police are doing a charity basketball event on April 11.

March is West Metro Food Drive month.

Next month's meeting is Wednesday April 1 – the web subcommittee meeting will start at 6pm. The Forester will give his annual report at the regular meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

Gene Hackett
Recorder