

Crystal Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
March 2, 2016
Crystal Community Center

Approved 4/6/16

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Nancy LaRoche. Commission members in attendance were: Lynn Haney, Steve Hildre, Lori Merriam, Erin Kolb, Meredith Torres-Walsh, and Guy Mueller. Also present were Elizabeth Dahl, Council Liaison; Scott Berggren, Brad Fortin, and Gene Hackett from the city staff.

The new Commission members were welcomed to the group.

The minutes were approved as sent.

Ms. LaRoche reviewed the City Council work session. The meeting went well and the Council seemed receptive to looking at ideas for the PIR and Becker Park planning. Fundraising was also discussed. Ms. Haney said that the Commission must continue to work with the Council so that any fundraising that is done does not take away from allocated funds for parks. Fundraising should be in addition to budget funds and used for a special project or to enhance a scheduled project. Ms. Merriam said at her employment that donated funds are not counted in the budget. She would like to hear from the Council that they will not take money away from parks if fundraising is successful.

Park signage was discussed. Mr. Fortin said he was looking at way to standardize the signs. Ms. Haney said she liked the wooden ones. Mr. Mueller and Ms. Kolb liked the idea of a standard sign as it would help with branding the park system. Mr. Fortin thought there was a way to standardize the signs but still make them look nice. He will work up some designs and bring them to a future meeting.

The Commission reviewed and accepted the 2016 work plan.

Moved by Ms. Kolb and seconded by Ms. Merriam to recommend approval of the 2016 work plan. Motion carried – unanimous.

Ms. LaRoche reviewed the changes to the meeting format. The reports, with the exception of the City Council report, will be placed in the dropbox for members to review. There will be time allowed for questions or comments but the reports will not be reviewed individually. Mr. Hildre, as Secretary, will be a timekeeper.

Updated member books were distributed. There is some information that needs updating and will be distributed later.

The Commission Bylaws were reviewed and revisions made. Wording was changed in the Commission absence section; the ordinance pertaining to Commissions will be included. The Commission will finalize the revisions at the April meeting.

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Ms. LaRoche announced her candidacy for City Council. She offered to resign as chair in case anyone saw it as a conflict of interest. Members felt at this time there was no need to resign and would revisit the question later if needed.

Scott Berggren, Recreation Supervisor, gave an overview of his program responsibilities including youth and adult sports programs, special events and concerts. He is also responsible for social media, the website and liaison with other community groups.

Tamzyn Peterson and Joe McCartin appeared before the Commission to request a ban on tobacco at Twin Lake Shores Park. They have a concern about second hand smoke and the litter that is in the park that washes onto the lake. The park is narrow so the smoking interferes with others using the park. The current tobacco free parks policy only prohibits tobacco in park buildings, on playgrounds and on athletic fields during scheduled youth activities. The policy is not an ordinance so is not really enforceable. Ms. Merriam asked if we can amend the policy to reflect certain park areas. Ms. Kolb was in favor of not changing the policy but signage to the effect: Children at Play/No Tobacco Use. She felt the current policy is “judgy” as it bans a legal activity. Mr. McCartin felt that children’s health should be important and the cigarette butt litter washing into the lake should be a concern too. He felt several of the smokers come from The Cavanagh apartments. Ms. Kolb and Ms. Merriam thought that the Cavanagh management should be contacted and asked them to help with the problem – either through education or some sort of partnership. Mr. Fortin suggested making all parks tobacco free. Ms. Kolb was not supportive of that as the Commission members are to represent all residents including smokers. She suggested signage and more trash containers. Ms. Merriam suggested educational pollutions signage. Ms. Haney thought the Commission should review the entire policy because of the increase in vaping. Ms. Hackett offered to talk to other cities regarding their policy. Additional discussion was tabled until the April meeting.

Mr. Mueller updated the group on Crystal Fund projects. The CF will help in the following area: Arbor Day trees, park signage, accessible swings for playgrounds, planters on Bass Lake Road/city property.

Ms. Hackett reviewed the fundraising ideas as discussed at the last Commission meeting. Staff is working on the Round Up program as well as the other ideas. Mr. Mueller will work with the Crystal Fund to check out GoFundMe.

The Commission reviewed the “Naming Park Facilities” document for future use in case larger donations are received. No changes were made at this time.

Mr. Fortin announced that 3 Rivers Parks will put a directional sign in Bassett Creek Park for the regional trail. He will bring a drawing to the next meeting.

The Welcome Park neighborhood open house on park updates is scheduled for Wednesday April 27 from 6:30 – 8pm.

Minutes: March 2016

Ms. Dahl reviewed the City Council action. She thought the Commission was well received by the Council. She updated the group on the municipal consent vote and the next steps from there.

There was a question on the monthly report regarding re-installing the tennis board at Becker Park. Mr. Fortin is looking at a smaller version to put up. Ms. Kolb asked about the vandalism to the Little Free Libraries as it seems to be a continual problem. Perhaps parks aren't the best locations for these.

Crystal Frolics button contest will need distribution so the Commission can judge them at the April meeting.

Upcoming events:

March 12	Light of Crystal Bowling Fundraising at Doyles
March 20	Bowling for Rocco at Doyles
May 18	Crime Prevention Fund Jail and Bail

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm.

Gene Hackett
Recorder

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