

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
LITTLE CANADA, MINNESOTA**

NOVEMBER 3, 2022

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a regular meeting of the City Council of Little Canada, Minnesota was convened on the 3rd day of November, 2022 in the Council Chambers of the City Center located at 515 Little Canada Road in said City.

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and the following members of the Parks & Recreation Commission were present at roll call:

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION: Hipp, Horwath, Miller, Mui, Schletty, Chu, and Abruzzese.

ALSO PRESENT: Parks & Rec/Community Services Director Bryce Shearen and Recreation Coordinator Sierra Hietala.

MINUTES

Commissioner Horwath made a motion to approve the October 6, 2022, Parks & Recreation Commission minutes as submitted. Commissioner Chu seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

PARKS AND RECREATION MISSION STATEMENT

Chair Miller read the parks and recreation mission statement.

OLD BUSINESS: YOUTH COMMISSIONER UPDATE

The Parks & Rec Director stated that staff conducted youth commissioner interviews earlier this week, noting that there were three great candidates. He noted that prior to the meeting he emailed one of the candidates to extend an invitation to join the Commission and that offer was accepted, therefore that appointment will go forward to the City Council for approval.

Commissioner Hipp asked if staff was aware of the method of publicizing the program that garnered the applications.

The Parks & Rec Director replied that one applicant stated that they were made aware of the opportunity through the City newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS: PIONEER PARK PLAYGROUND

The Parks & Rec Director stated that he sent out an RFQ to playground vendors requesting their best proposal and noted that there were more responses than anticipated. He reviewed details of

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the two different projects that would be going on within Pioneer Park, the site improvements and the amenities. He stated that all 13 proposals received were put into a spreadsheet for easier review. He stated that another round of engagement occurred following the procurement of proposals and a summary of those results was provided to the Commission. He stated that he will also speak with LCRA at their next meeting as well, and did reach out to obtain their input on the best playground option by completing the survey. He asked that the Commission provide a top three consensus and then staff will follow up with those vendors and present a recommendation to the City Council. He provided a budget and funding update.

Chair Miller commented that the online survey was a great tool as it provided the top five. He asked the Commission for input on their desired top two or three proposals.

Commissioner Abruzzese stated that options J and K are from the same company and have many of the same features, therefore she would like to see one of those as a top candidate, but not both. She preferred option J out of those two options. She stated that she also likes option I. She commented that all of the colors seem to be neutral and therefore she would leave that decision to public input.

Commissioner Hipp agreed that either option J or K should be included in the top. She stated that option I is also great as it included the desired height and shade. She stated that there was a lot of support for the zip line and that seems to be an option that could be provided in a future phase. She stated that she also liked the heritage theme shown in option I. She believed that Flagship did the best job in option A, which was not shown in the top selected from the public. She noted that the public seemed to like the outer space theme the best. She commented that the problem with the Flagship option was that it lacked height and some of the other options desired.

Commissioner Mui commented that he liked option I because of the seating provided and the consideration for shade. He stated that there is already a similar style park from St. Croix Recreation and therefore he would like to consider something different. He stated that he liked the colors for options I and D.

Chair Miller commented that they are lucky to have so many great options to consider. He commented that the St. Croix equipment is quality and there have not been any maintenance issues. He acknowledged that option I has more shade. He stated that he would recommend that staff move forward with discussions with St. Croix, Northland, and Flagship. He stated that he does like the ship feature and the shade.

Commissioner Schletty echoed the comments from the other Commissioners. He thanked Montreal Courts and the community members that provided input last week. He asked, and received confirmation, that the results of that input was calculated into the survey. He stated that he would prefer one of the St. Croix Recreation layouts but recognized that includes a lot of the same equipment that is at Rondeau. He stated that he does like the Northland option because of the shade, more natural layout, and more accessibility. He stated that the one structure also has

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good height. He agreed that only one of the St. Croix options should move forward along with Northland and Flagship.

Commissioner Chu commented that she looked for height in the options and asked how tall the structure is in I compared to J and K.

The Parks & Rec Director replied that they are similar in height at about 22 or 23 feet.

Commissioner Chu commented that Pioneer Park is a big park and therefore you want something higher. She recognized that many like natural colors but it seemed the community preferred more colorful options and she supports that for the equipment to pop in the large park. She commented that St. Croix looks great but is very similar to Rondeau. She stated that she also likes the spaceship theme as it is different.

Commissioner Horwath commented that the elevation on options I, J and K helps to make those playgrounds feel big. He stated that the name of the park is Pioneer Park and therefore he would think more of a historical element, therefore I would seem to fit that feel better. He noted that there is also stonework that could be carried over to the water feature. He stated that his eyes were first drawn to J and K, but prefers the ship in J. He stated that he does like the rope features in both J and K, noting that stood out from all the other features. He stated that he also likes option I because of the accessibility. He believed that I is his top choice. He commented that the color scheme seems to be missing a splash to make it stand out a bit. He preferred option J for the St. Croix options. He noted that some elements can be added in later stages.

Commissioner Mui asked if benches could be placed around the outskirts of the playground.

The Parks & Rec Director commented that the benches will be added regardless of the option.

Commissioner Chu noted that swings are not included and should be kept in mind for the future.

Chair Miller referenced the differences in cost for the poured-in-place surface and asked for additional explanation.

The Parks & Rec Director replied that there are requirements for that type of surface and the fall zone required for different playground elements. He noted that they will follow up with the vendors to determine if the appropriate amounts are calculated. He noted that some of the costs are far off the charts and that raises a red flag on those proposals. He provided details on the specifications that were provided to vendors related to the path to the water feature and desired colors.

Hipp introduced the following motion:

RECOMMENDING THAT THE CITY COUNCIL CONSIDER OPTION I AS THE TOP CHOICE, WITH OPTION J AS A SECONDARY CHOICE

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The foregoing motion was duly seconded by Horwath.
Ayes (7). Nays (0). Motion passed.

The Parks & Rec Director summarized the input he noted related to colors and stated that he would work with the vendor to finalize colors.

NEW BUSINESS: 2022 SUMMER FARMERS MARKET

The Recreation Coordinator provided a recap of the 2022 summer farmers market season including background, vendors, available products, fees and sponsorship, marketing, SNAP/EBT, and Power of Produce. She also reviewed goals for the next season. She commented that with the introduction of so many new things, it would be helpful to have someone to assist at the market, whether that is done through volunteers or a seasonal staff member.

NEW BUSINESS: RECREATION COORDINATOR UPDATE

The Recreation Coordinator provided a highlight of upcoming youth and adult programming opportunities and events.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

No comments.

UPDATES

The Parks & Rec Director provided a quick summary of updates on ongoing projects in the parks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Staple
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.