



MINUTES

Parks, Recreation and Environmental Commission

January 6, 2021 City Hall

Council Chambers 6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Johnson. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held virtually.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Commissioners Pauline Alfors, Gary Bank, Matt Johnson (Chair), Abe McEathron, Julia O'Rourke, and Mike Santi.

Members Absent: Commissioner Amelia Kuiper and Charles Warner.

Also Present: Director Jennifer Fink; Assistant Director Jason Hicks; Recreation Coordinator Ali Lukin; Recreation Supervisor Maria Larson; and Council Member Emily Dunsworth.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by O'Rourke, seconded by Bank to approve the agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 6-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by McEathron, seconded by O'Rourke to approve the December 2, 2020 minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 6-0.

V. Business Items

A. Update on Mission Possible Distance Learning Day Camp and Special Events – Maria Larson, Recreation Supervisor

Director Fink stated she was delighted to have Recreation Supervisor Maria Larson and Recreation Coordinator Ali Lukin at this meeting to speak about the Mission Possible Distance Learning Day Camp.

Recreation Coordinator Lukin discussed the goal of the Mission Possible Day Camp which was to provide a safe place for parents to send their kids when they are not in school while parents are working. She reported children K-5 could attend Mission Possible Day Camp.

Recreation Supervisor Larson explained the program runs from 7:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. and follows the Mounds View School District schedule. It was noted the program has 50 kids at this time in ponds of up to 11 kids per instructor. She reported the program was flexible and can adjust from hybrid to fully distanced learning as necessary. The fee for the program was reviewed and it was noted there was a two day per week minimum for students. She commented students received two snacks per day and lunches have been provided by the Mounds View School District and have been delivered by the Public Safety Department. Students are provided with a bin that includes basic school supplies, including headset, scissors, colored pencils, markers, glue, etc.

Recreation Coordinator Lukin discussed how staff works with parents and teachers to obtain and confirm every child's unique distance learning class schedule. Staff helps student's login to their computers, open their meetings and focus during class times. When students are not in class meetings, staff assists them with homework. She reported staff also sends home daily notes to parents about class meetings, homework and overall behavior.

Recreation Supervisor Larson stated when students were not in meetings and doing homework staff has planned a variety of activities for students while included arts and crafts, yoga, group games, sledding in the parking lot, visits to the eagle's nest, journaling and quiet time, bingo, trivia, and relay races.

Recreation Coordinator Lukin described how staff was working to maintain the health and safety of the children and staff members. It was noted all student and staff members wear masks and social distance as much as possible. All classrooms, including work spaces, are disinfected by staff every evening. Students frequently wash their hands, including before and after snack and before entering any new space. In addition, staff conducts temperature checks when students first arrive at the community center.

Director Fink reported staff saw a need in the community and created this program to meet the need. She anticipated things would change in the future as the Mounds View School District works to get students back in the classroom. She indicated there may still be families that would like to utilize the Mission Possible Day Camp for health and safety purposes. She planned to continue the day camp through mid-February. She stated she was very proud of staff and their efforts to create and implement this program.

Discussion included:

- The Commission commended City staff on their efforts.
- The Commission believed this program was positively impacting the students involved in the day camp.

VI. Announcements

A. City Council Report – Council Member Emily Dunsworth

Councilmember Dunsworth provided the Commission with an update from the City Council. She reported the Council would be meeting on Saturday, January 9, 2021 in person to meet the new Councilmembers and set goals for the coming year.

B. PREC Chair Updates – Matt Johnson

Chair Johnson thanked staff for the gnome hunt and stated this has been a great way to get people out to the parks. He reported the ice skating rinks were being used and he appreciated staff's effort to keep the rinks well maintained.

C. Department Happenings and Upcoming Events – City Staff

Director Fink thanked her staff members for creating the gnome hunt in New Brighton. She reviewed the NBCC door counts from 2020 noting there were still over 182,000 visitors. She reported golf numbers were amazing for 2020 stating there were 514 rounds in December. She discussed how she was working with the Irondale Ski Team to set trails at the golf course. She continued to look at how programs operate through this winter and noted HVAC improvements were being considered at the community center.

The Commission encouraged City staff to consider providing spaces for groomed bike trails.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Bank, seconded by McEathron to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Fink". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Fink
Director of Parks and Recreation