



**AGENDA**  
**Parks, Recreation and Environmental Commission (PREC)**  
**January 6, 2021, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Via Zoom**

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Roll Call**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair Matt Johnson          | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Abe McEathron  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Pauline Alfors | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Julia O'Rourke |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Gary Banks     | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Mike Santi     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Amelia Kuiper  | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Charles Warner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant Seat                 | <input type="checkbox"/> City Staff Members          |

**III. Approval of Agenda**

**IV. Approval of the December 2, 2020 Minutes**

**V. Business Items**

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

**VI. Announcements**

- A. City Council Report** – Emily Dunsworth, City Councilmember

- B. PREC Chair Updates** – Matt Johnson, Chair

- C. Department Happenings and Upcoming Events** – City Staff

**VII. Adjournment**

*\* A quorum of the City Council may be present.*



## **MINUTES**

### **Parks, Recreation and Environmental Commission**

**December 2, 2020 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 Axberg. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held virtually.

#### **II. Roll Call:**

Members Present: Commissioners Pam Axberg (Chair), Pauline Alfors, Gary Banks, Amelia Kuiper, Matt Johnson, Abe McEathron, Julia O'Rourke, Mike Santi, and Charles Warner.

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Director Jennifer Fink and Council Member Emily Dunsworth.

#### **III. Approval of Agenda**

Motion by McEathron, seconded by Johnson to approve the agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 9-0.

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Banks, seconded by McEathron to approve the October 7, 2020 minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 9-0.

#### **V. Business Items**

##### **A. Discussion on Current Programming Levels During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Re-Entry Plans for 2021 – Jennifer Fink, Director of Parks and Recreation**

Director Fink discussed the current programming being offered during COVID-19 and commented on the plans for 2021. She discussed the programming that was open at this time versus the activities that have been paused or canceled due to the governor's orders. She noted the current pause ran through December 18<sup>th</sup> and staff anticipated this pause would be extended through the end of the year. She commented on a brochure that would be sent to residents once COVID cases were reduced to 1,000 cases per day. She updated the Commission on the Mission-Possible Distance Learning Day Camp. She discussed how annual memberships were down at the Community Center. She reported the Brightwood Golf Course has had its best year ever. She explained outdoor rinks and sledding hills would be open for use this winter, but warming houses would remain closed per the governor's

orders. She discussed the Parks and Gnomes hunt that occurred at Hansen Park recently and thanked staff for their creativity. She stated staff was working to come up with additional creative family based ideas for the coming months. She encouraged the Commission to pass any ideas they may have onto staff.

Discussion included:

- The Commission encouraged staff to continue to come up with outdoor activities for families.
- The Commission suggested the City sponsor a nature photography event in New Brighton.
- The Commission commented a pop-up story book walk may be another idea for park staff to pursue this winter.
- The Commission encouraged staff to collaborate with neighboring communities for snow shoeing and cross country skiing events.
- The Commission recommended a snow sculpture contest be considered by staff.
- It was noted an outdoor drive up farmers market was being planned for this winter.
- Virtual programming was being considered through the Community Center.
- The Commission suggested staff consider placing some geocaches throughout the City's parks.
- The Commission commended the Parks and Recreation Department for their tremendous and innovative efforts to interact with the public in a safe manner.

## **VI. Announcements**

### **A. City Council Report – Council Member Emily Dunsworth**

Councilmember Dunsworth provided the Commission with an update from the City Council. She explained the Council would be holding a Truth in Taxation Hearing on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. She noted the proposed tax levy was below 2% for 2021.

### **B. PREC Chair Updates – Pam Axberg**

Chair Axberg stated this was her last official meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission. She noted she would be transitioning to the City Council in 2021. She wished everyone a healthy and safe holiday season.

### **C. Department Happenings and Upcoming Events – City Staff**

Director Fink discussed the staffing changes that had occurred within the Parks and Recreation Department. She stated Kelly Distad came to the City of New Brighton last week. She reported the City of Mounds View was in the process of creating its own Parks Department. She anticipated she would be working with Mounds View on additional aquatics programming in 2021. She explained staff was in good spirits and was working to encourage each other despite the ongoing pandemic. She indicated the Parks Department made \$300 in the recent fundraiser for future scholarships and noted she also received \$3,000 from the Lions for scholarships.

VII. **Adjournment**

Motion by Banks, seconded by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Fink". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Fink  
Director of Parks and Recreation



# Memo

**To: Parks, Recreation and Environmental Commission Members**  
**From: Jennifer Fink, Director of Parks and Recreation**  
**Subject: Presentation on Mission Possible**  
**Date: December 31, 2020**

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Recreation Supervisor Maria Larson will be giving a presentation to the Commission on the Department's Mission Possible program. She will share information on how the program has been running and future plans, to the best of our ability.