



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Fridley Municipal Center
7071 University Ave NE, Fridley MN 55432

AGENDA – Oct. 5, 2020

DATE: Monday, Oct. 5, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Fridley Civic Campus – 7071 University Ave NE, Fridley, MN 55432 - BANFILL ROOM (UPSTAIRS)

PLEASE BE PREPARED TO WEAR FACIAL COVERINGS IN THE BUILDING AT ALL TIMES AND DURING THE MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER – Names to be read by Chairperson, Heintz
2. APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA FOR OCT. 5, 2020
3. APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES FOR SEPT. 8, 2020
4. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS:
 - a. Meeting Dates determined for 2021
 - b. Locke Park Playground update
 - c. Fall Field Utilization Update
 - d. Craig Park drainage - see link: www.FridleyMN.Gov/CraigPark
 - e. Anoka County Parks Video
 - f. Caribou Coffee Sponsorship and Donation for SNC
 - g. Parks Master Plan update
 - h. Addressing Homeless Encampments
 - i. Civic Campus Plan for Rentals/Programs/Events (Coming early 2021)
5. STAFF REPORTS:
 - a. Springbrook Nature Center (Mike)
 - b. Upcoming activities/events
 - c. Other
6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
 - a. Other
7. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: Nov. 2, 2020 – 7 p.m.

Attachments:

Sept. 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes; Rec Division Highlights and Community Engagement Report; SNC Report; and Park Maintenance Report; 2021 Proposed Meeting Dates



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Fridley Municipal Center
7071 University Ave NE, Fridley MN 55432

MINUTES

September 8, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Larson called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Shanna Larson, David Kondrick, EB Graham and Peter Borman

Members Absent: Mike Heintz and Ryan Gerhard

Others Present: Mike Maher, Springbrook Nature Center Director provided the staff reports. Staff Liaison, Deborah Dahl, Director of Community Services and Employee Resources was absent.

2. APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

MOTION by David Kondrick to APPROVE the September 8, 2020 meeting agenda. SECONDED by Vice Chair Larson. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

3. APPROVE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES FOR AUGUST 3, 2020

MOTION by Mr. Kondrick to APPROVE the August 3, 2020 meeting minutes. SECONDED by EB Graham. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

4. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS:

a. Summer Recap

Summer program enrollment was down due to COVID-19. A detailed report will be emailed to commissioners after tonight's meeting. Vice Chair Larson asked if due to low enrollments if funds would be available to offer a summer program next year.

Mr. Maher replied that the largest programs that were cancelled were the SNC summer camps and Summer Rocks programs. A number of smaller programs were offered and for groups between 8-10 at a time, with some expanded up to 25. Unfortunately, these programs didn't create much revenue.

b. Staff Survey on Field Use

Mr. Maher reported that staff went out to a Commons and Moore Lake Parks to do an informal survey to document how many people were using the fields and courts and to record the kinds of activities going on in the park. It appeared there were not a lot of organized groups using the fields and space, rather mostly friends or informal gatherings. Information will be attached to the minutes for review.

Commissioner Kondrick asked if the lights would be turned on sooner now that the days are getting shorter. Mr. Maher wasn't not familiar with the lighting control systems. At the nature center the lights are automated.

c. Food Truck Licenses/Permits

Mr. Maher reported that the Community Development staff will be working on a policy for food trucks, similar to the licenses and permits used for peddlers and tree trimming vendors. Before it is finalized it will come back to the commission to provide an update and review.

d. Locke Park Playground Update

Construction is slated to start soon on the Locke Park Playground, which is located on the east side of the Civic Campus development in Locke Park. The commission will be updated when it's completed with a kick-off event to be held in the spring, once construction, landscaping and paving is completed. A neighborhood meeting was held earlier this summer and staff gathered feedback from about 30 community residents who helped select a few of the features.

e. Parks Master Plan Update

A comprehensive update was provided the last meeting. Jeff Jensen is taking the lead on reaching out to potential design consulting firms that would be able to advise and assist throughout the plan development and offer funding options. They will also finalize design plans, costs, and develop an effective community engagement process. A formal interview process will take place in September. Staff will continue to update the Commission as the plan progresses.

f. Anoka County Parks JPA Update

Staff are hoping to hold a joint meeting with Anoka County park maintenance staff in October or November to address concerns and needs with a goal of updating the Joint

Powers Agreement. Staff will also provide an update to Anoka County on the City's parks master plan to inform them of the vision and any possible impact to the County parks. Staff will continue to keep the commission updated.

g. Pumpkin Nite In the Park Alternative Event

Staff had decided that due to public safety concerns with COVID-19, Pumpkin Nite in the Park will not be held this year. As an alternative, staff are preparing an activity called Pumpkin Pursuit in the Park, similar to a virtual scavenger hunt through a mobile app. The app is called Goose Chase and people can register a team to participate. The teams can work throughout the park system to participate in activities like taking a photo of a sign to get points for an activity in the parks. The activities include a full range of different challenges, trivia and other items as well. The event will occur over 3-4 days in mid-October and will have a Halloween/fall theme. Participants will be encouraged to dress up in costume and to visit 7-8 other parks beyond Springbrook, with a potential of choosing from hundreds of challenges or activities to do at the parks. The event will be announced September 15 and there is a \$25 fee to enroll and prizes will be awarded for the top three teams.

h. Pavilion Project Recognition and Opening

Mr. Maher provided an update on the pavilion project. He stated a few small details are still left to complete, but the building is pretty much ready and has already been in use for Outdoor Adventures and recreation classes. The pavilion was available to rent as of September 1st and 6-7 rentals have occurred in the last two weeks. Due to COVID restrictions, the indoor gatherings are limited to 10 people inside and 25 outside. A grand opening event was initially planned, however, due to the pandemic, it was decided to focus on an individualized donor recognition. Staff sent out a thank you package with a plaque or certificate as well as a credit for free rental of the space and an invite to come out at their convenience for a tour.

i. Recreation Event Vehicle

Mr. Maher discussed the fire department rescue vehicle that was repurposed and retrofitted to accommodate recreation equipment and supplies, it was re-painted, and equipped with sound equipment. It has new graphics that will help it stand out and will be used to create a focal point or backdrop for Recreation events as well as other city events.

5. STAFF REPORTS

a. Springbrook Nature Center Update

Mr. Maher reported that programs have been modified for COVID and the indoor building capacity is limited to 20 or fewer. He mentioned that the new process is working well so far.

He reported the popular Pollywogs program has started up and some changes were made requiring pre-registration, in order to not exceed the gathering capacity. Three Friday Night by Firelight Programs are scheduled this fall and will be held at the pavilion and lawn area for groups up to five people.

Seven new members have been added on the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation Board, making a total of 19 members from Fridley and surrounding communities. He mentioned the Board wanted to increase representation from Fridley and 6-7 of the new members are Fridley residents. Malcom Mitchell has been the chair for 30 years and has stepped down. The new chair is Pushkar Viadya. Volunteerism is increasing from Excel, Delta Dental, and Eagle Scout projects. Three Eagle Scout projects in the works include replacing a deteriorated bridge, interpretative signs and installing a ponding garden.

b. Staffing update

Mr. Maher reported that next Tuesday, the program staff from Springbrook Nature Center, the Recreation division, and Alyssa Kruzal with Community Engagement will have a workshop to discuss our vision and plan out future programming between the three groups. He mentioned there is a renewed spirit of excitement and cooperation among the group as they will work more closely together on joint events and projects.

c. Other

Commissioner Borman asked about adopt a park and how that was going. Mike responded that six parks have been adopted by community groups which is good response.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Kondrick made the MOTION to adjourn the meeting, SECONDED by Commissioner Graham. The MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Krista Peterson, Recording Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS



Recreation Division - September 2020

Fall Programs

The fall programs began in September. Below is a list of programs that have begun and participation numbers.

Preschool and Elementary Youth

- Soccer (7)
- Sports Sampler (7)
- Musketeer Fencing (5)
- Halloween Fun (7)

Adult

- Zumba in the Park (Tu – 9, Th – 7)
- Pickleball Clinic (9)
- Adult Softball League (6 teams)

Family

- Painting in the Park (11)
- ROX: Recreation...in a Box
 - Puppy Surprise (6 – reservations closed)
 - Family Follies (2 – still open for reservations)
 - Spooktacular (1 – still open for reservations)



ROX (Recreation in a Box)

Our first ROX, a dog-lover themed program – Puppy Surprise, was rather successful. Kits included a special bandana with a reflective Fridley logo and other fun stuff! Looking forward to continuing this program with a variety of themed kits.

Pickleball Clinic

The second Fridley Pickleball Clinic was held on September 19th and 20th at full capacity (9) at the Commons Park. Following the clinic staff sent out a survey and received positive feedback, many also indicated a desire for further pickleball programs and added facilities in the city. A request was made by multiple players to stay connected. One stated, "I have totally enjoyed it and want to keep in touch with anyone who wants to play." Staff are looking to organize an open Pickleball email list to help facilitate players ability to stay connected and grow the sport within the community.

Recreation Brochure

We are currently finalizing the next brochure which will be mailed out to Fridley residents at the beginning of November. This brochure will include programs in November through February.

Rec to the Rescue

Staff have continued to offer programs for residents to participate in at home. Since the last meeting, we have completed 1 additional Activity Guide that has been emailed to participants as well as posted on the website and promoted with Facebook and Instagram. This guide was created to be easily viewed on a mobile device and also encourages participants to engage with us via social media. We have also been able to highlight upcoming program offerings in the guides.

Lawn of the Week

In September an additional two lawns were awarded for exemplifying creativity, neatness and beauty. Lawns were nominated by Fridley Residents and staff selected the winners each week and placed a sign their front yard. The program continues to be well received and winners have been appreciative of the recognition. Many positive conversations have been sparked between neighbors as a result of this program.

Commons Park Usage Survey

At the end of August Recreation staff went out to Commons Park in the evenings and weekend mornings to survey the park use. Staff reported that the park is very busy, typically seeing families using the playground, picnic tables and fields. One of the most popular activities seen on many nights was soccer. Two adult groups of friends play 2-3 times per week in the open spaces of the park and bring their own nets. Adults were also frequently using the sand volleyball courts. The stadium field and one of the open space fields was used regularly by the Fridley Youth Football Association. Staff will continue to set up times to observe this facility in the future to help track usage and stay connected with users.

MRPA Virtual Conference

The Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association held their first Virtual Conference during September 23 and 24th. All Recreation Division staff were able to participate in a portion of the conference. Highlights included sessions on Racial Equity, Customer Service and Accountability. Staff members Matt Mraz and Brice Richter also presented on the topic of field trip planning as part of the YPSN (Young Professional Student Network) session.

Community Engagement - September 2020

Anoka County Parks Video

City of Fridley staff worked in partnership with staff from Anoka County Parks to produce a video about the Anoka County Parks in the City of Fridley. The video can be found on Fridley Municipal TV or via [this link](#).



Adopt-A-Park & Adopt-A-Rain Garden

The City of Fridley's Adopt-A-Park program is starting to wind down for the season. In the weeks to come, City staff will be reaching out to Adopt-A-Park volunteers with an end of the year program evaluation as well as a thank you gift. The city had a total of 16 parks adopted and one rain garden. Of the 16 groups that have adopted parks 12 were Fridley families, one was a Fridley business, one was a Fridley community service organization, one was the City ERC (Employee Relations Committee) and then the Fridley Police Explorers also adopted a park. You can see which parks and rain gardens were adopted and by which groups in the interactive



The Smith Family cleaning up Ruth Circle Park!



Water balloons picked up by a volunteer at Hackman Circle Park.

Adopt-a-Park map, [here](#).

Fridley Community Network

The next Fridley Community Network next gathering is scheduled for 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. for October 8th.

Recreation, Springbrook and Community Engagement - September 2020

Program Summit

In September Springbrook, Recreation, and Community Engagement staff came together for the first of a series of Program Summits. Staff spent their time together conducting workstyle assessments and doing teambuilding, reviewing the Department's mission, discussing ways to contribute to a workplace "Culture of Excellence", and then planning for 2021 programs and events. The Springbrook, Recreation, and Engagement staff will meet again in November to continue planning programs for 2021.



How we can create a "Culture of Excellence".



Recreation staff planning for 2021.



Springbrook staff planning for 2021.



2021 Program & Event Calendar.

Springbrook Nature Center Monthly Report – October 2020



- In accord with the City of Fridley, Springbrook is responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic:
 - Trails remain open to the public and the park remains at peak visitation.
 - With capacity restrictions in place, the interpretive center continues to be open and utilized. Some high-touch exhibits, café tables, etc. have been temporarily removed. We are now open daily from 9 am to 5 pm.
 - Small-group programming, Outdoor Adventures, are now available and include classes such as archery, insect discovery, pond exploration and survival skills can be scheduled Monday-Saturday.
 - We are continuing our Nature out of the Box program. is a monthly kit that features fun environmental education activities that can be done by groups here at the nature center, at home or a local park. A new kit is available for purchase each month.
- We have made the decision to cancel our Pumpkin Night in the Park event and to create an alternative event named Pumpkin Pursuit in the Parks. This event is spread out throughout many of the city parks and focuses on small family/ friend groups completing challenges using an interactive app called Goosechase. Registration is Currently open for this event!
- An 8' wide by 18' long wooden boardwalk was completed by scout Ammar Ishtaiwi of Troop 714 (Spring Lake Park). Ammar raised funds for nearly all the material costs and had the support of his troop to complete construction.
- We have resumed our adult-child program: Playful Polliwogs with some alterations to follow guild lines with respect to COVID-19.
 - Pre-registration is required
 - Classes are capped at 10 adult/child pairs
 - Classes are entirely outdoors, utilizing the new PAC.
- We are now accepting and scheduling community rentals of the new Pavilion Activity Center. The space is being used for Fall recreation and Springbrook programs.
- Partnership agreements are in place for Springbrook to provide on-site outdoor environmental education programming at Hayes, Stevenson and Adams Elementary Schools.



Boardwalk completed as Eagle Scout Project

- Three Friday Night by Firelight programs were held in September and each of the events, with registration limited to allow for social distancing, were at full capacity.

- We have been awarded the International Paper Foundation grant in the amount of to enhance our Live animal exhibits and create a new exhibit which is in development.

- Volunteerism is picking up at Springbrook with corporate volunteer activities recently completed with Xcel Energy and Delta Dental.



Pavilion being used for Friday Night Program



Xcel Energy Volunteers



MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Jeff Jensen, Operations Manager-Streets and Parks

DATE: October, 2020

SUBJECT October Parks Report

The Park Department has been doing multiple projects these past few months. Parks worked with the Street Department on removing over 2,000 ft of fence off of University to allow for more plantings on the project. We have been also watering the plantings, shrubs and trees 3 times a week. We just finished our 4th year of Emerald Ash Borer removal and replanting of trees. We have been working on prepping area for Locke Park Point Playground and will be starting to removing old fenced area for garden plots and restoring that area for Anoka County. Organized sports are still going so we are doing weekly field prep and mowing. We will be starting fall winterizing of irrigation systems that takes around two weeks. Locke Park Point Playground will be finished the first week of October and the parking lot and trail work will start the second week of October for the playground area and also the completion of trails on the Civic Campus including pouring the concrete bridge deck so we can open the bridge to pedestrians. We are working with an engineering firm to solve our ground water problem at Craig Park to eliminate flooding of park areas and residents yards.

Jej:jej



Fridley Civic Campus

7071 University Ave N.E. Fridley, MN 55432
763-571-3450 | FAX: 763-571-1287 | FridleyMN.gov

2021 DRAFT

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Schedule

All Meetings at 7 p.m. and located in Banfill Conference Room (2nd floor)

January 4, 2021

February 1, 2021

March 1, 2021

April 5, 2021

May 3, 2021

June 7, 2021

July 5, 2021 – NO MEETING

August 2, 2021

September 7, 2021 – MEETING MOVED TO TUESDAY DUE TO LABOR DAY

October 4, 2021

November 1, 2021

December 6, 2021