

Open Space & Recreation Commission

April 27, 2020 – 6:30 pm
Virtual WebEx

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mattison.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners present: Roger Bergman, John Cornelius, Bill Delaney, Max Hyberger, Kelly Kuebelbeck, Bob Mattison, Matthew Sanders, Dawn Speltz, and Della Daml.

Commissioners absent: None.

Staff present: Rick Birno, Director of Parks and Recreation, John Stutzman, Recreation Supervisor; Recreation Coordinator; Kimberly Sanberg, City Council; and Sheila Van Sloun, Administrative Assistant.

3. Agenda Changes or Additions

None.

4. Approval of January 27, 2020 Minutes

MOTION moved by Speltz and seconded by Kuebelbeck to approve the January 27, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Swearing In and Introduce New Commission Member Linden Weiswerda

Birno introduced Weiswerda to the Commission. Weiswerda said he's been a Golden Valley resident for a year and a half. He has two children and works for the Minneapolis Park Board. Commissioners then introduced themselves and welcomed Weiswerda.

6. COVID-19 Parks & Recreation Services Update

Birno shared the current policy in place for COVID-19, which includes the closure of all rental and recreation facilities, along with the cancellation of all recreation programs until further notice. He said refunds have and will continue to be issued as the policy changes.

Birno said Brookview Golf Course opened Saturday, April 25 after Governor Tim Walz recently issued an executive order that expands outdoor recreation opportunities. The course is open with limited operations and temporary restrictions to help limit the spread of COVID-19. The Regulation Course, Par 3 Course, Driving Range, Practice Greens, and Brookview restrooms are open. The Golf Shop,



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Lawn Bowling Green, and Three One Six Bar + Grill will remain closed until further notice. Tee times may be booked online or by phone with credit card. No cash will be accepted.

Birno shared the addition of a Park Patrol, which will consist of staff patrolling parks and open spaces to remind patrons of safe social distancing practices.

Birno said tennis court nets and basketball hoops are up.

Mattison asked about the status of Youth Athletic Association sports. Birno said they are hoping to get the seasons in, but may need to be shortened based on policy changes in the future.

7. New HomeRECEd Program – Next Steps

Stutzman shared details on HomeRECEd, a free daily program offered through Golden Valley Parks and Recreation in the comfort of your own home. The online program offers simple and fun activities for everyone, including: scavenger hunts, basic yoga poses, and arts and crafts. He said the program was spurred by the COVID-19 closures and offered to help individuals stay active and engaged mentally and physically. He said in the last 35 days, over 3,200 people engaged in the program.

Weiswerda shared that he participated with his children and looks forward to more.

Birno encouraged the Commissioners to share any creative ideas they have for the program.

Stutzman announced that some of his youth activity contractors are now offering their classes virtually, instead of cancelling all together.

Stutzman announced that organizers are working with sponsors to develop a virtual event that can be viewed online for this year's Bike Rodeo and Vehicle Fair. He encouraged the Commissioners to check out the details on the city website.

Mattison thanked John and all the Park and Recreation staff for all their efforts during this difficult time.

Mattison asked about the status of this year's Step To It Challenge. Stutzman said the program will still take place as normal. He said it helps that it's already a virtual event.

8. 2020 Resolution to Approve Recognized Golden Valley Youth Athletic Associations

Birno shared the list of Youth Athletic Associations with the Commissioners. He said these organizations offer programs the Park and Recreation Department is not able to offer. He also said these organizations do a great job in the community and get a considerable amount of youth participation in their programs.

Birno shared that he was recently contacted by Hopkins Girls Basketball to be considered as a recognized Golden Valley Youth Athletic Association and begin having their contact information shared in the Golden Valley seasonal activities catalogs.

MOTION moved by Bergman and seconded by Sanders to approve the current list of Recognized Golden Valley Youth Athletic Associations, and add Hopkins Girls Basketball to that list, which includes: Golden Valley Little League Baseball, Golden Valley Girls Slowpitch Softball, Armstrong Cooper Youth Lacrosse, Armstrong Cooper Youth Hockey, Cooper/Armstrong Girls Fastpitch Softball, Armstrong Cooper Youth Baseball Association, and Park Valley United FC Soccer Club. Motion carried unanimously.

Birno said he would invite a representative from Hopkins Girls Basketball to a future meeting for introductions.

9. DeCola Ponds E & F – Isaacson Park Industrial Area and Wildwood Park – SEA School

Birno shared information on the underground DeCola Ponds Flood Mitigation Plan near Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka Avenue. He said the next phase includes exploring for flood storage in the SEA School-Wildwood Park Area.

Kuebelbeck expressed concern on any impact the project would have on the SEA School or Wildwood Park and would like to see those areas be preserved if possible.

Speltz suggested having the project take place and blend with ballfield improvements in the area.

10. Commission and Staff Update

• Staff and Commission Updates

- Speltz shared that the Rice Lake dock detached and flooded away from shore. She said a resident retrieved it and brought it back. She inquired on when it would be fixed. Birno said he would touch base with Public Works and report back to the OSRC.
- Speltz shared that the trail drainage in Sochacki Park near Bonnie Lane is much better this spring.
- Mattison asked about winter trail use at Brookview this past winter. Birno said the trail was extremely active this year with a ton more use than previous years. He said they added solar trail lights and pub curling on the lawn bowling greens, which have been very busy. They plan to offer it again next year.

• OSRC 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Work Plan

Mattison said he recently presented the 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Work Plan to City Council sharing four to five key items for each year. He said the presentation was well received by the Council. One key item mentioned was park dedication fees. After brief discussion, Weiswerda suggested having park dedication fees linked to number of residents or jobs added by new construction, rather than by platting.

- **Appoint Chair and Vice-Chair for 2020/2021 at May Meeting**
Birno asked the Commissioners to share their interest to him and a vote will take place at the May meeting.
- **Lawn Bowling Green Artificial Turf Installation**
Birno said the project will be finalized today. He mentioned that the artificial turf looks great. Speltz shared suggestions for advertising the new turf.
- **Luce Line Trail**
Birno said the trail has been cleared of man-made snow, is open, and not flooded.
- **Run the Valley – June Virtual Run**
Birno said Run The Valley will be offered as a virtual race this year. It will begin June 5. Councilmember Sanberg added that participants will have a date range in which to complete the race on their own. Birno said he would have staff liaison Brian Erickson, send them details on the event.
- **Wesley Park LED Light Replacement**
Birno said the project is postponed until further notice.
- **Isaacson Park Scoreboard Additions on Fields #2 and #3**
Birno said the project was completed before the COVID-19 closures. They are up and ready for use.
- **Annual Board and Commission Dinner – Canceled**
Birno said the annual recognition event has been cancelled this year.
- **Next OSRC Meeting Date on Memorial Day – May 18 instead?**
Due to the Memorial Day holiday, Commissioners agreed to move the May meeting to May 18, 2020.
- **Councilmember Sanberg Updates**
 - Sanberg shared the new attendance policy for Commissions. She said all members would be receiving the new policy soon.
 - Sanberg said COVID-19 updates will be posted on social media outlets. She said the City Council’s goal is to keep all staff and residents safe.
 - Sanberg said to maintain fiscal responsibility, the City Council has delayed a number of city projects until they know the full fiscal impact of COVID-19. Kuebelbeck shared her concern regarding pot holes on city streets. Sanberg said those repairs are still moving forward and she should call the City offices to get details regarding the project.

11. Adjournment

MOTION moved by Bergman and seconded by Speltz to adjourn at 8:05 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Sheila Van Sloun

Sheila Van Sloun, Administrative Assistant



Bob Mattison, Chair