

MINUTES
CITY OF MAPLEWOOD
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING
March 18, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7:10 by Jonathan Taylor.

II. ROLL CALL: Members: Lisa Parks, Bob Harsh, Patricia DeForrest, Jonathan Taylor, Cathy Edmond, Laine Schenkelberg, Dan Noonan and Tiffany Hyde, Assistant Director also in attendance. Megan Dougherty, Catherine Mahoney excused.

III. WELCOME TO VISITORS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS –N/A

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Patricia DeForrest motioned to approve. Bob Harsh seconded. All approved.

V. PARK MEMBERS REPORTS ON PARKS-

- Ryan Hummert Memorial Park-Irrigation bids are being sought for the upper area. Some of the benches/tables are in poor condition. Some of the signage may need to be replaced. Downspouts need to be painted as they don't match. Roof (west facing) needs repair.
- Lindbergh Park- Good
- Kellogg Park- Where does the park grounds end? Lots of trash on the wooded path.
- Yale Park – Same as last time.
- Greenwood Park– Good.
- Trolley Park- Good.
- Central Park – Good. Unusual litter, ie. Socks but kids are obviously playing
- Deer Creek Park– Sign is still up saying the playground is closed. There is a lot of pea gravel on the pad.
- Sutton Loop Park- Good, trash scattered about in the pavilion.

VI. OLD BUSINESS –

- Public Outreach- Board would like Laura Miller to post more frequently about park related items. Some residents aren't aware the City has 9 parks plus the tennis courts, roller rink and skate park. Perhaps we can take turns highlighting a different park monthly??? Perhaps our park marketing can be improved if we could use the PARC employees. They do a good job getting information out about things going on at The Heights. Patty will talk with Molly.
- Park Vandalism-Jonathan did a quick analysis of the information Tiffany sent out. Repairs are not significantly higher. It's hard to track if our employees make the repairs versus hiring a contractor. The grass cutting fees have increased.

VII. NEW BUSINESS-

- Molly Curcuru- PARC Director Introduction- 15 years in Parks/Recreation. They are currently working on hiring an aquatics manager. Rates are currently under review. The pool concession stand will be open this season with a limited menu. Staff is working with Midwest to be ready for the pool opening. "Egg My House" is going on right now and it's almost sold out. A question was asked where would the Imagination Station camps be this summer. It will be at The Heights. A portion of The Heights is being used as a COVID vaccination site. People can register through St. Louis County. When there is a vaccine surplus, County residents are contacted to see if they can make it to the site within 30 minutes. Currently, the vaccine site is operating 3 days a week (M-W-F)

- Council Presentation-
 1. Inform them of what the parks members actually do. Discuss the annual tour we take to compile a list of needs/wishes for each park. The Board would like the Council's support to allow staff and/or Board members to attend conventions/seminars to see what can make the park's system better overall.
 2. A plan is needed for the replacement of playground items on a schedule. We have no idea when some of the playgrounds were actually installed.
 3. The Board would like funds set aside to complete a citywide park master plan.
 4. The Board would like an improved presence on social media.
 5. The Board would like to know how the playgrounds can be opened faster?
 6. Current items in progress (a) Trees in Deer Creek Park near the playground for shade (b) Splash pad and native plantings at the pool (c) Replacement of the existing surfacing at the Hummert park playground and (d) Tennis Court replacement.

John Meyer, the Street Superintendent, is retiring at the end of the month after almost 43 years. The City will be looking to hire a maintenance worker. There are currently 7 maintenance workers for the city.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Bob Harsh motioned to adjourn. Dan Noonan seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm. Next meeting, April 15, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Parks