

**CITY OF CIRCLE PINES, MINNESOTA
REGULAR PARK BOARD MEETING**

September 6, 2016

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Caron called the regular meeting of the Circle Pines Park Board to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Zorzin, Sandmann and Caron were present. Park Board member Erichsrud was absent. Assistant Administrator for Public Services Peterson and City Administrator Antonen were present representing staff. Park Board member Dolieslager arrived during Park Board member comments.

APPROVAL OF MAY 3, 2016 MINUTES

Sandmann requested a correction on page two, under Summer Park Schedule, July 21 date, should state "Bend in the River Big Band".

MOTION

Sandmann moved to approve the minutes with above correction. Zorzin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

PARK BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Sandmann commented on how wonderful the parks were this summer.

Zorzin mentioned she had visited Inner Park several times during the summer to see if any progress had been made on the improvements discussed earlier this spring and had not noted any changes. Peterson indicated the new scoreboard had been installed. The location of the pads and picnic tables has been determined and materials are here, but need to be installed. The basketball hoops are here and also need to be installed. The infield will be redone this fall.

Zorzin asked if the pickle ball court was still scheduled. Peterson indicated it was.

Dolieslager referenced a letter she received. After discussion Chair Caron added Brendan Ballard Letter to the agenda as Item b.

GOLDEN LAKE PARK

On July 31 at Golden Lake Park, a very large church group used Pavilion 2 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The group had loud music playing from the pavilion which was disruptive to park goers and neighbors. Police were called to the park and they asked the group to turn down the music and the group complied. The group had not rented the pavilion.

Caron stated there were two residents in attendance and invited them to speak.

Cheryl and Dave Stibbe from 49 W. Golden Lake Road noted several problems at Golden Lake Park that included the following:

- Loud music that can be heard inside their home with the windows shut and air conditioning on
- Music that starts at 8 a.m.
- Music with foul language
- Vehicles revving their engines
- Sexual activity taking place
- Ordinances that don't cover loud noise/music between sunrise and sunset
- Ordinances that don't cover obnoxious behavior in the park
- Ordinances that don't allow the police to prevent disruptive behaviors at the park
- Drug transactions taking place in the park
- The back area overrun with brush allowing people to be unseen
- People afraid to walk the trail in the back area
- Large groups of people taking over the park
- Large groups of people not from the area using the park

They suggested the following to help correct the problems:

- The back area of the park needs to be cleared out and the brush removed
- Lights need to be installed in the back area
- A sign needs to be installed noting the hours the park is open
- Possibly a gate at the entrance to prevent cars from accessing the parking area when the park is closed
- The noise ordinance needs to be changed to prevent the problems that existed all summer
- Limit the size of the groups at the pavilion, such as 30 people maximum
- Electricity at the pavilions should not be allowed without a rental
- The ability to force large groups without a rental agreement out of the pavilion

Caron said the board needs to have a discussion, make a recommendation and try to allow for the park to still be used and be active. Personally, she likes seeing the park used. Cheryl Stibbe said she also enjoys seeing families in the park, but there have

been a few groups this past summer who have ruined it for everyone else. If the city doesn't do something by strengthening ordinances and providing more guidance, things will get out of control.

Dave Stibbe noted the music and language used by the group using the park on July 31st made many people uncomfortable. He stated the police don't have the tools, dash cameras, body cameras or ordinances to do their job. He asked an officer what he could do. They suggested he email the mayor and council members, which he did, so now he was coming to the Park Board. Another thing the police suggested was to clean up the park to prevent areas where people are hidden from view.

Caron suggested the Park Board have further discussion at the work session after the meeting and invited the Stibbes to attend.

Sandmann said the Park Board can make recommendations to the council regarding noise, but felt group sizes would be harder to regulate. There just was a concert in the park with 200 people in attendance. Cheryl Stibbe said that was a special event, with a permit and all the proper steps were taken. It only lasted an hour and a half and was a safe event. It was not an inappropriate event. The biggest thing is there is no way to enforce rules or let the people know the park is closed and they can't be there.

Sandmann asked what type of behavior occurred. Cheryl Stibbe said they used foul language, were at the basketball court and at the beach. Dave Stibbe added they took control of the entire park.

Cheryl Stibbe said the people in the group were not from the area or from Circle Pines, or even the northern suburbs. This has to be addressed.

Zorzin discussed the issue of the neighbor having trouble selling their house because of the park and believes everyone selling their house has issues they wish were better. Cheryl Stibbe said that particular day when the potential buyer arrived there was music blaring with foul language and anyone would have gotten back in their car and left.

Zorzin also asked how they came to the conclusion the group wasn't from the area or northern suburbs. Cheryl Stibbe said she knew that because she overheard a conversation.

Zorzin also commented on a previous comment that the tennis court is being used only 20 times a year, and she uses it at least 20 times a year. Dave Stibbe replied it must be her he has seen using it. Zorzin mentioned a lot of times when she goes to play it is being used and she has to go to the high school. Dave Stibbe noted he is not home all the time and believes the tennis court is a good thing.

Dave Stibbe stated there were six weekends between May and early August completely ruined due to groups at the park. He believes part of the park is good and part is an

eyesore and should be corrected. Rules need to be made and enforced to allow for everyone to be monitored on the same level, church groups and non-church groups.

Caron said after the meeting they will adjourn to work session to further discuss solutions.

LETTER FROM BRENDAN BALLARD

Caron read the letter from Brendan Ballard dated May 12, 2016 indicated he was a senior at the high school and was writing about the ice rinks and their condition. He indicated the rinks were important to him because they were one of the ways he stays active during the winter. He and his friends use Baldwin Park or Inner Park ice rinks for hockey, but he had the following issues:

1. Snow on the ice requiring them to shovel before they can skate
2. Lack of the warming house open on a consistent basis
3. Ice in terrible condition even when the weather is cooperating
4. Ice put down on top of fallen snow

There needs to be a way to have the ice better than marginal. He understood it was expensive, but thought the answer to the problem was investing in an ice re-surfacer.

Caron said the letter was sent only to Park Board Member Dolieslager. Caron noted the ice condition last year was a little rough due to the weather.

Caron noted there was no action needed and would discuss further at work session.

ADJOURN TO WORK SESSION

Discussion topics:

1. Golden Lake Park
2. Brendan Ballard Letter

MOTION

Dolieslager moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Caron seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Clerk

Chair