Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Those present:
- Andy Cision, Chairperson
- Sharon Ornquist, Secretary
- Charlene Whitbred-Hemmingson
- Chelsie Bowker
- Cindy Domeier
- Micah Bender

Also present:
- Bruce Zenner—Council Liaison
- Sandi Dingle--Mayor

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Motion by Bowker, second by Domeier to approve the July 11, 2019 minutes.
Motion carried 6-0.

PARKS UPDATE:
No written monthly Park Update was provided.

AGENDA ITEMS
A. City Code—Parks & Recreation Commission

The Commission felt that their input in matters of reviewing and recommending a plan for park improvements are not being valued. The Commission is feeling that their only purpose is to provide recreational programs. This was the reason for the review of Article II of Chapter 50 which establishes the Parks & Recreation Commission.

The Commission focused on two sections:

Section 50-36 which outlines the program of work as follows:

1) Review existing parks and recreation facilities within the city and adoption of a plan for such work and purchases as necessary to bring such existing parks and recreation facilities up to an adequate level.

2) Study and recommend to the City Council the acquisition of additional land for parks and recreational facilities and equipping of such facilities.

3) Propose recreational programs

4) Such other matters affecting parks and recreational facilities within the city as the commission may deem desirable or necessary.
Chairman Cison shared with Mayor Dingle that the Commission conducted an assessment of each park and prepared a 5-year park improvement plan which is different from Public Works Supervisor’s recommendation. The Commission is frustrated that their recommendations are not being relayed to the City Council for consideration along with the Public Works Supervisor’s recommendations.

Commission Member Bender shared with Mayor Dingle that our parks are deteriorating and the Commission is passionate about repairing and preserving them. That is why the Commission spent over 100 volunteer hours repairing the dock at Lions Levee last year so it can remain open.

Chairman Cison shared with Mayor Dingle the Commission’s desire to revitalize Whitbred Park in 2021. With the water treatment facility slated to be completed in 2020, the Commission would like to redesign this park to coincide with the project. The Commission is recommending that this be a joint effort with the Athletic Association. Once a vision is created then grants and donations can be obtained.

The Commission wanted to know how they can get their voices heard by Council and where does the Commission fit within the organizational chart.

Council Liaison Zenner informed the Commission that it should not solely rely on the minutes to express their recommendations, but rather draft a letter to be personally present to the City Council outlining the Commission’s recommendations. Commission Member Ornquist asked if this is the same procedure for the other Commissions.

In reviewing the organizational chart, Mayor Dingle was unsure but believed the Commission fell under staff. The Commission was shocked by this placement since the Commission is made up of citizens.

*Section 50-37 states that all expenditures shall be approved by the City Council.* Mayor Dingle suggested that the Commission recommend that a small budget be established to allow for the purchase of items needed for the recreational events (i.e., glow sticks).

The Commission was very appreciative of the Mayor for taking time to listen to the Commission’s frustrations, passions, fundraising, and volunteer efforts. The Commission felt they had a voice and understands that it is imperative to have a good relationship with Public Works.

**B. Finalize 5K Fun Run**
- Map of the route will be posted on Facebook
- McDonalds is donating the orange drink and cups
- Bring water jugs, tables, and pop up tents if you have them.
- SuperAmerica has donated the donuts for the end of the race.
- The Lions Club has donated bottled water for the end of the race.
- Cub has donated $35 worth of produce
- Need approximately 12 volunteers for about an hour. Currently have 4.
C. 5K Fun Run Volunteer meeting
   Chairman Cison will attend the Lions Club meeting on Tuesday at 7 p.m. to solicit volunteers.
   It was the consensus the Commission to change the meeting time to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 in the Community Room.

D. Community Garden

   Premier Portable Building, Hastings, MN, has three options on-site priced under $3,000. The Commission has raised $2,695 in donations for the Garden Shed. The Commission felt the 10’ x 12’ shed (green) would be best appropriate.

   Mayor Dingle inquired about the need for a large wooden shed and suggested a less expensive option of a plastic shed. The Commission felt the wooden shed would fit its need for storage of garden supplies (rakes, tiller, tomato cages, hoses, reels, etc.), durable enough to install baskets to the exterior for excess produce to be shared, large enough to grow with the expansion of the garden, and provide additional storage for public works if needed.

   It was the consensus of the Commission to recommend the purchase of the green wooden garden shed from Premier Portable Buildings.

E. Movie-in-the Park

   The next movie in the park is set for Saturday, August 24 beginning at Dusk. The movie title is Frozen. The Commission will distribute Freezies. Commission Members Cison, Whitbred-Hemmingson and Domeier will not be in attendance.

F. Heritage Days Fireworks
   The Commission will distribute glow necklaces at the fireworks event on Friday, August 16. Arrive by 8 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next Special meeting—August 13, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Next Regular meeting—September 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted August 14, 2019 by Commission Secretary Ornquist

Important Dates:
• August 13—5K Fun Run Volunteer Meeting (7:30 p.m., Community Room)
• August 16—Heritage Days Fireworks—hand out Glow Necklaces (arrive by 8 p.m. at Heritage Park)
• August 18—Heritage Days 1st Annual P&R/Lions Runraiser (arrive by 6 a.m.)

Agenda Items:
• September—Invite Athletic Association to discuss vision for Whitbred Memorial Park redevelopment. Including Hockey Rink base
• Grand Re-opening—Lions Levee Park
• Dedication of the Little Free Library at Axelrod Park