

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission
City Hall
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue

MINUTES
October 7, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:35 PM

B. ROLL CALL:

Mike Bradbury X Eric Brenton X Tom Faust X
Bob Haight X Wesley Goldberg X Erin Williams

COUNCIL LIAISON:

James Wassenberg X

STAFF PRESENT:

Kelly Nelson X

C. PRESENTATION: N/A

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. August 5, 2024 – Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes

Haight motions to approve the Park minutes;
approved 5-0

E. AGENDA:

1. Fall Event Planning

Nelson updates the commission about what has been planned so far for the City’s fall event on October 26. The City’s 75th Anniversary will be celebrated from 1:00 to 2:00 in the Council Chambers with cake, coffee and conversation. In addition, NineNorth is helping put together a video featuring past mayors to discuss successes and challenges the City has faced. The fall event will begin afterwards outdoors and go from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. We will have live music, three inflatables, a food truck and pumpkin decorating. Nelson wants to give commissioners a chance to make any further suggestions now since they did not have a commission meeting in September.

Goldberg shares that they are planning a fall event at work and says two easy things to incorporate are pumpkin bowling and a pumpkin ring toss with hula hoops.

Haight asks what will happen if it rains during the event.

Nelson says they could cancel the inflatables to get a credit to be used another time and then move music and pumpkin painting indoors.

Wassenberg asks if attendees will wear costumes.

The commissioners will evaluate after this first year in order to make suggestions and improvements.

2. Fall and Winter Activities Discussion

Nelson updates the commission on a meeting they had with Gibbs Farm. Gibbs does not have any fall/winter activities right now that the City could promote and pay a percentage of the enrollment fee for, but this could easily be accomplished in the summer with a promo code. That would allow staff to track how successful participation levels were with Falcon Heights residents.

Commissioners then continue discussions surrounding free family fun nights at City Hall this winter.

Bradbury suggests a tree lighting event as a kickoff.

Brenton suggests holding the first family fun night in January after the holidays.

Haight asks if Bell Museum offers any winter events.

Commissioners discuss possible activities. One suggestion is a holiday movie night.

The commissioners then discuss ice skating.

Nelson shares that the City is willing to rent a warming house again this year and staff it if the commission is in support of doing that.

Commissioners agree that it would be nice to try it again and evaluate usage again after last year resulted in just seven days of skating due to unseasonably warm weather.

Wassenberg asks if the warming house could be located closer to the rink.

Brenton asks if we can purchase a liner to help extend the skating season.

Wassenberg says that it can be any white liner or tarp so that it's affordable.

Bradbury asks about adding a pleasure rink at Curtiss since it would be the only lighted rink for skating (there is a pleasure rink at the Grove but there are no lights there).

Information/Announcement

1. Community Park Update

Nelson shares that the City Council has decided to move forward with a prefabricated picnic shelter and a bathroom/concession building for Community Park. The exact prefabricated structures have not been selected yet but will likely be ordered as soon as possible, as the lead time might be 12 months.

Nelson also updated commissioners on progress at Curtiss Field. The Parks Commission had identified its top three most important improvements to make at a previous meeting, which were drinking water, push button/timed lighting and a sidewalk added to close the loop from the parking lot to the park trail for walkers/bikers.

While Public Works prices out lighting, adding drinking water is at a standstill. This is mainly to wait and see what pricing comes in at for a prefabricated bathroom structure at Community Park

to know if there is a possibility to budget for a smaller, prefabricated restroom with drinking water at Curtiss Field in the coming years. Public Works just completed the installation of the sidewalk last week!

G. ADJOURNMENT: 7:45 P.M.

Haight motions to adjourn the meeting;
Approved 5-0