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08-29-2023

Board of Park Commissioners
Work Session
Minutes

Work Session: Thursday, July 27, 2023 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

City Hall, Hooker Conference Room #235

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen Mills at 1:45pm

Present: Kathleen Mills, Ellen Rodkey, Israel Herrera and Jim Whitlatch

The City was committed to providing equal access to information. However, despite our efforts, at times, portions of our board and commission packets are not accessible for some individuals. If you encounter difficulties accessing material in this packet, please contact Kim Clapp, Office Manager at clappk@bloomington.in.gov and provide your name, contact information, and a link to or description of the document or web page you are having problems with.

A-1. WORK SESSION AGENDA

- a. Use of Structures on Parks Properties
Paula McDevitt, Director

Items discussed

- Authority of the Board of Park Commissioners – to maintain parks, facility and trails
- Parks, facilities and trails were intended for recreational use and enjoyment for all people in the community
- Department was responsible for maintaining parks, facilities, trails and spaces
- Camping structures and makeshift enclosure had been erected in parks and on trails, and often were in violation of the Special Use Policy, and after park hours.
- Structures were causing the inability for all the community as a whole to use and enjoy parks spaces
- Structures were creating serious public health risk and safety issues
- The Department operated under policies approved by the Board of Park Commissioners. The Board had the authority to set new policies.

- b. Incident Reports – Data Review
Tim Street, Operations and Development Director

Items discussed

- Security was in the parks every day, with exception of two holidays
- Contract for 2023 security in parks and on trails would cost \$297,840
- Marshall Security reported 1724 incidents at sites they patrol
- 2022 Bloomington Police Department reported 3688 call for services in parks and on trails
- Breakdown of calls per location were reviewed
- Total number of calls for service were reviewed
- Hot spots and encampments at multiple sites were discussed
- Area of responsibility of City Departments were discussed

- Hours of parks were discussed
- Amount of needles located in parks were discussed
- Handout was distributed that had been provided by The Community and Family Resources Department (CFRD). The document provided information on CFRD responsibilities, how CFRD worked with area service providers serving unhoused residents, an overview of the meetings that occurred regarding unhoused residents, the availability of grant funding, and shelter beds available.

c. Draft Policy
Paula McDevitt, Director

Items discussed

- Intent - policy was to address the issue of the use of tents, makeshift enclosed structures or similar enclosures that presented public health and safety concerns.
- Requirements - no person shall erect, occupy, or otherwise utilize a tent, makeshift enclosed structure, or other similar enclosure on park property
- Exceptions to the policy – Special Use Permits and approved events
- Shade Structures – discussed what type of structures would be permissible
- Enforcement of Policy – Parks and Recreation would work with Bloomington Police Department to enforce policy
- If tents were not removed upon request, they would be collected by BPRD and stored in a secure place for at least 30 days, along with belongings if they met requirements

d. Schedule Special Park Board meeting
Paula McDevitt, Director

Items discussed

- Resolution for policy
- Board of Park Commissioners Special Meeting
- How to roll out policy

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Kim Clapp,
Secretary Board of Park Commissioners