

## Maple Grove Citizens Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2016

**Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by CAC member Bob Joiner at 7:05 p.m.

**Members Present**

Nkechi Anyamele	John Beacham	Adam Bedard
Leslie Bender	Stephen Gill	Lorraine Gresser
Bob Joiner	Tim Klevar	Joan Masberg
Meg Miller	Karen Nickolauson	Kevin Rebman
Don Skoglund	Stephanie Walvatne	

**Members Absent**

Jon Burgard, Katie Cohen, Harry Kennedy, Steven Maas, Joe Piket

**Others Present**

Maple Grove Councilmember Erik Johnson, City Administrator Heidi Nelson, CAC Staff Liaison Mike Opatz, Park Board Chair Bill Lewis and the following Parks and Recreation staff: Director Terry Just, Recreation Superintendent Mark Saari, Parks & Planning Superintendent Chuck Stifter, and Program Specialist Katie Lallier.

**Congratulations/  
Introductions**

The CAC extended their congratulations to Parks and Recreation Director Terry Just and thanked him for his years of service. Director Just introduced the Parks and Recreation staff and Park Board Chair Bill Lewis.

**Minutes**

Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2016, meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee Subcommittee on Youth Sports. Motion passed.

Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2016 meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee. Motion passed.

**Area Reports**

CAC member Joiner reported on not receiving mail at his home for two days and instances of mail theft in his neighborhood. In his reviewing with the United States Postal Service, it was found that that USPS does not notify local police. Those who are victims of mail theft should notify both the USPS and local police. CAC Staff Liaison Opatz stated he made an inquiry about the recent mail thefts to Police Chief Werner, and Mike stated he would email the Chief's response to the CAC members.

**Discussion on  
Youth Sports  
with Parks and  
Recreation Staff**

A brief background on the Citizen Advisory Committee's study/review of youth sports was provided. Reference was made to a series of questions developed by the CAC Subcommittee on Youth Sports. The questions and Parks and Recreation's answers were included in the CAC March 16, 2016, agenda packet.

Mr. Just provided a summary of the Parks and Recreation Department. He referenced the quarterly brochure mailed out to households. He stated

that Parks and Recreation is a very visible department with lots of public contact, approximately 2 million customer interactions each year.

He stated the Park Board is a policy making group, and the Park Board members are appointed by the Mayor. He stated there are joint powers agreements in place with the schools.

Mr. Just stated there is a Parks and Recreation staff liaison for each of the sports associations. Each association manages their own programs.

Reference was made to the parks comp plan, with 2018 being the next update. Mr. Just said that will lay out the development of parks, mostly in the northwest part of Maple Grove as that is primarily what is left to be developed.

He stated that Maple Grove operates under a regional system which was established many years ago and provides for facilities spread throughout town versus one large central sports facility.

Mr. Just referenced the Minnesota Youth Athletic Services, a non-profit organization that encompasses baseball, basketball, wrestling and swimming. Mr. Just said that, when asked, a colleague at the MYAS told Mr. Just that Maple Grove has a good reputation.

Those in attendance reviewed CAC's questions related to youth sports and the Parks and Recreation responses to those questions as provided in the meeting agenda packet.

Q#1: Q&A took place how Parks and Recreation may interact with the associations, particularly related to having a liaison to the associations and scheduling facilities and fields. It was stated that the process works well in Maple Grove in that there is primarily one organization per sport.

There are two sports that Maple Grove does not have – rugby and cricket. There has been potential interest for cricket from an adult association. Ms. Lallier has met with those representatives. Due to field size (very large) there would be an issue as the field couldn't be used for another use. The adult sports programs rents facilities/fields from Parks and Recreation. Ms. Lallier reviewed various aspects of the conversation with the cricket group. They have tried cricket clinics, but there has not been enough interest.

The question was asked about track and field. Parks and Recreation has not had any inquiries, mostly likely since it is an individual sport and does not really fit into the association concept. There have been some clinics for youth in conjunction with track or cross country.

Q#2&3: Mr. Saari stated that challenges can come with changes in youth sports association leadership and turnover.

Discussion took place on parent behavior. Mr. Saari stated there really have been no issues with parents whose kids are in the Parks and Recreation programs. There are mechanisms in place to gauge the environment. He stated there is a park supervisor who travels around to assess that everything is in place/as it should be at the various fields/facilities.

The question was asked if Parks and Recreation has any interactions/relationships with referee/umpire associations in the state. It is standard practice for programs to contract with umpire associations. The statement was made that it is getting harder to find competent referees. The associations are conscious of the challenges.

Discussion took place on Parks and Recreation/City oversight and authority. The City can restrict usage if there are issues with groups.

Q#4: The question was asked about the level of field/facility scheduling conflicts. It was stated that the sports associations are receptive to Parks and Recreation staff suggestions. Demographics can be a factor for association requests for more convenient locations, the Elm Creek Neighborhood Park was used as an example.

Q#5: Parks and Recreation programs focus on fun for kids with no score kept. It is meant to be an educational/learning experience. Various clinics available to coaches was briefly talked about.

Discussion turned to participation levels and the various sports options available to youth.

Oversight of coaches in each sport is different, and there are different levels of resources. Parks and Recreation coaches are all volunteer. All must have a background check and concussion certification.

Q#6: Parks and Recreation has a solid soccer program. It provides a service, and people like that it is community oriented. Mr. Just outlined a recent discussion with an official of the MapleBrook Soccer Association.

It was stated that club/traveling soccer has become much more regional versus community oriented with about 65% players from Maple Grove and 35% from other communities.

Q#7: Currently ages 4-19 are serviced through Parks and Recreation and associations. The answer to the question as provided in the packet was reiterated.

Q#8: Communications between associations particularly related to tryout times was referenced. It was stated that some associations try to accommodate kids related to tryout times so they can play other sports. Associations could use help coordinating communications for potential

future uses such as utilization of fields/area at high school and potential ideas and uses.

Q#9: ISD 279 enrollment projection handout was provided.

Q#10: Already reviewed.

Q#11: A sheet was provided outlining facilities and Park and Recreation facts and systems. A PowerPoint presentation slide of the comprehensive parks system showed the location of current and proposed parks. New parks will be established as areas become developed for residential. The comprehensive plan is a guideline for the future, and when updated, will look at trends, demographics, etc.

A question was asked about the Hennepin County Youth Sports Grant program. It was stated that the City received a total of \$425,000, and those funds went towards the development of the sports dome and community gym.

It was stated the comp plan is a map for the future, but flexibility is needed as there can be factors that come into play.

Q#12: Review continued on facilities and what is still needed to meet the comp plan guidelines. A PowerPoint slide was shown that compared facilities amongst various metro area communities comparable in size to Maple Grove.

This year there will be a focus on small baseball fields. Parks and Recreation staff reviewed proposed improvements to the Weaver Lake ballfields which are planned for 2016.

Q&A: The question was asked if the City heard anything about the associations' presentations to the Citizen Advisory Committee, particularly related to facility shortfalls. The City has received good feedback from the Osseo Maple Grove Basketball Association on the community gym. MapleBrook Soccer has stated that all is good with games but need more space for practice.

The question was asked about converting the ballfields at Weaver Lake from adult softball to youth baseball. It was stated the Park Board likes to look at repurposing a current asset.

The statement was made that Parks and Recreation is doing a great job, and the many amenities are appreciated. CAC appreciates the time spent and interaction with the Parks and Recreation staff. CAC's goal is to be educated, understand, assist and be part of the team.

Ms. Lallier was recognized by Mr. Just for her work on keeping statistics and planning. The Citizens Advisory Committee as a whole thanked Terry Just for his years of service.

**Other Business**

The April CAC meeting will include a 15-20 minute update from Community for a Lifetime representatives.

The statement was made that the Youth Sports Subcommittee needs direction. CAC members were asked to review their notes, and provide their thoughts/observations to Mr. Opatz on items where they feel CAC can play a role. CAC member Beacham was asked to coordinate a subcommittee meeting with Mr. Opatz. It was stated that three business days' notice was necessary for posting the meeting.

**Adjournment**

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the March 16, 2016 Citizens Advisory Committee. The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Morris  
Minute Secretary