

Memorandum



To: Mayor and City Council
From: Kay Okey, Parks & Recreation Director
Date: January 3, 2021
Subject: Amending Parks and Recreation Commission Residency Requirements

Overview: The Parks and Recreation Commission consists of seven (7) members and one City Council liaison. Commission advises the city on matters relating to recreation programs and park development. The members serve 3-year terms(staggered).

Limitations: Historically, it has been difficult to get and maintain an adequate number of qualified professionals to fill the Parks and Recreation Commission vacancies. City residency requirements, size of the city population and lack of professionals with interests in recreation severely limits the pool of applicants.

Proposal: Restructure the Commission to consist of:

- Five (5) SLP resident members.
- Two (2) at Large Members with residency in Spring Lake Park School District or active member in our recreation program(s).
- All Park Commission members must maintain this residency/requirement for the duration of their term of office.
- If qualified SLP residents wish to fill all seven (7) positions that would be allowed if no other at large candidates apply.

The Spring Lake Park and Recreation Department has no residency requirements to take part in the recreation programs or to visit our parks. We market our programs to multiple cities and our direct mailing list is for the SLP school district. In addition, we jointly operate one park with the neighboring city of Mounds View. Several long serving volunteer coaches live outside the city limits and have expressed interest in the past to serve on the commission but were unable to due to the residency requirement. It is the hope that by broadening the residency requirement, we will be able to increase our pool of qualified citizens to serve on the commission.

If approved, we would start a marketing campaign to announce the changes to fill the three vacant seats. Methods used would be social media, letters to volunteers and flyers posted in city parks.

Respectfully submitted by

Kay Okey
Parks and Recreation Director