Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

Resolution 2021-253

Resolution Approving a Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Use of Drones Policy

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board ("MPRB") is the steward of the Minneapolis park and recreation system;

Whereas, The MPRB was founded in 1883 by an Act of the State Legislature, and has the responsibility to manage use of parks in the Minneapolis park and recreation system;

Whereas, Requests to use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), commonly known as Drones, on park property has increased in recent years;

Whereas, Drone use is regulated by two MPRB Ordinances, PB2-11 and PB2-31, which prohibit use unless a permit is issued;

Whereas, MPRB staff have researched drone use in parks, within the state of Minnesota, and within the United States of America to assist in the creation of a proposed Drone Policy to guide permit issuance; and

Whereas, This resolution is supported by the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan, which values Responsiveness and Innovation by “Anticipating and thoughtfully responding to the diverse needs of the city’s communities, continually seeking ways to better deliver park and recreation services;”

RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners approve a Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Use of Drones Policy; and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.

Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

TO: Administration & Finance Committee

FROM: Jennifer Ringold, Deputy Superintendent

DATE: October 6, 2021

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving a Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Use of Drones Policy

BACKGROUND

This resolution considers approval of a Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) Use of Drones Policy. In 2018, MPRB staff determined that development of a Drone Policy would provide necessary structure, protocol, and guidance to allow for specified use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), commonly known as Drones. Since then, significant research and vetting was done by an internal, cross-agency staff team to consider needs related to MPRB use and external requests. Staff took special consideration to address concerns related to use of UAS in sensitive habitat areas across the system and has provided policy language to reflect that permission to use drones will not be extended to special areas that include wildlife sanctuaries.

This new policy provides the framework required for staff to consider requests and issue permits for use of drones on MPRB property. Additionally, adoption of this policy will allow for revenue-based permit issuance as identified in the Board approved budget.

This policy has been reviewed by legal counsel.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of a Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) Use of Drones Policy.

This action is supported by the following vision and goal statements in the MPRB 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan.

Value: Responsiveness and Innovation

Anticipating and thoughtfully responding to the diverse needs of the city's communities, continually seeking ways to better deliver park and recreation services

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ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment A: Drone Policy 2021 Final (PDF)

Prepared By: Annie Olson, Director of Customer Service, Customer Service
Review:

Annie Olson	Completed	09/13/2021 3:55 PM
Jennifer Ringold	Completed	09/19/2021 8:53 PM
Jennifer Ringold	Completed	09/19/2021 8:54 PM
Al Bangoura	Completed	09/20/2021 2:30 PM
Administration & Finance Committee	Pending	09/29/2021 6:50 PM
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Pending	10/06/2021 5:00 PM