

**CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021
6:30 P.M.**

North St. Paul City Hall – Council Chambers
2400 Margaret Street

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Lloyd Grachek
Laura Greenlee-Karp Larry Amsden
Heather Haas - Excused Absent
Ingrid Koller
Sue Springborn
Nancy Thorsen
Sarah Zaradka
Arthur Alvarez, Jr.
Tim Cole, Council Liaison

STAFF

Lisa Ritchie

III. Adopt Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda with proposed change by Commissioner Green-Lee Karp, and seconded by Commissioner Zahradka, with all present voting aye (7-0). (Proposed change is the next regularly scheduled meeting is November 17, 2021 rather than January 27, 2022 as stated on the agenda.)

Motion to change the regularly scheduled November 24, 2021 meeting date to November 17, 2021 by Commissioner Zahradka, and seconded by Commissioner Thorsen, with all present voting aye (7-0).

Motion to cancel the December meeting by Commissioner Koller and seconded by Commissioner Zahradka, with all present voting aye (7-0).

IV. Approval of Minutes

September 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes - On motion by Commissioner Laura Green-Lee Karp, and seconded by Commissioner Koller, with all present voting aye (7-0).

V. Meeting Open to Public

Note: This is a courtesy extended to persons wishing to address the commission who are not on the agenda. A completed public comment form should be presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission Secretary prior to the meeting; presentations will be limited to 3 minutes. This session will be limited to 15 minutes.

Tom Sonnek, Stacy Maher and Carey Nadeau from the newly formed Arts & Culture Commission were in attendance to introduce themselves and the Art & Culture Commission, expressing their interest in collaborating with the Park & Rec Commission on future projects/events. Members of the Arts & Culture commission presented a short presentation, informing the Parks & Rec Commission of who they are and what they have identified as their Directional Statements. Their Directional Statements are as follows: Broad collaborative representation, Sustainable funding sources, Exceptional and engaging artists and ideas, Clear bylaws and procedures. As well as the breakdown of the Directional Statements and their approach. ([See file City of North Saint Paul ACC Presentation.pdf for the full presentation](#))

The ACC asked the P&R Commission: How do you think the city can benefit from the Arts & Culture Commission?

Answers:

- Community Events
- Music in the Parks
- Art Wagon
- Educational
- Public Art
- Murals
- Art Fairs/Car Show
- Art in the Parks

Sue Springborn stated “Art in the alley” in Rapid City, South Dakota is a excellent example of public art and added Seppela Blvd is a great place for the city to have something similar.

Laura Green-Lee Karp stated there is a local group “Juxtaposition” is an organization in Minneapolis that teaches education thru graffiti and teaches kids how to do graffiti, and then they install murals. Laura added she thinks graffiti has a negative connotation across the generational gap, she views graffiti as a positive public art installation whereas previously it was viewed as vandalism. Laura has seen comments on facebook indicating some do not want public art. She then posed the question to the ACC, “What do you think about that and have you thought about changing the narrative so that the town nay-sayers get behind and support the ACC?” Stacy stated, the ACC has discussed some initial projects and they want to start out with a “Homerun” rather than something non-traditional.

Although graffiti is a wonderful suggestion, the ACC hasn’t thought out how to execute something non-traditional because art is controversial sometimes. The ACC have discussed controversy and feel it should not be feared but embraced and it is a welcomed discussion. As the ACC executes projects from an artistic perspective and are excited to welcome, embrace and learn from all feedback. Lloyd Grachek stated there used to be art on the streets and would like consideration be given to Northwood hockey rink for something

similar. He would like the 2 commissions to work together. Sue Springborn stated we also have a museum that already exists and would welcome the ACC with open arms. Laura Koller mentioned she remembers going to an annual art gathering in Bemidji where artists from all over exhibit their art. She believes it would be a wonderful draw for tourists to come to downtown. She has also had a vision for the Silver Lake Splash to combine with an art exhibit in the park. Sarah stated the trail at Casey Lake is used for a Halloween event where vendors set up stations through out the trail. This is also something that could be done for an art exhibit. Lloyd inquired if the Parks & Rec commission could fund a part-time position this summer to hire someone to run the craft wagon in our parks. Dan Wineck (City Finance Director) stated it definitely could be an option.

Tom asked the second question, "What is your advice for a new commission just getting started?"

Answers:

- Start small & start safe (non-controversial)
- Don't limit art to visual art only
- Create a 1, 3 and 5 year road map
- If ACC plans on using a park facility, reserve as soon as possible.
- Collaborate with Parks & Rec to present to Council
- Consider an art contest/art exhibit

In summary, the Park & Rec commission is very open to and excited about collaborating with the Arts & Culture commission.

VI. Public Hearings

No one from the public was in attendance.

VII. Update from Financial Director

Dan Winek, City Finance Director, was present to review the Park & Rec financials. His handouts included:

- MN Statutes 2020, citing current regulations for use of Park Dedication funds. Sarah Zarahdka asked if the funds could be used to purchase land and Dan confirmed they could.
- Park Dedication Fund Balance sheet
- Park Fund Balance sheet

VIII. Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations

A. Boards & Commissions Ordinance Refresher

Lisa Ritchie updated the commissioners on the attendance requirements. Per North Saint Paul Code of Ordinance; **32.12 ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS.**

(A) *Purpose.* To assist boards and commissions in fulfilling their purposes and duties and to ensure that they are not prevented from doing so by the repeated absence of their members, the Council hereby establishes an attendance policy for members serving on boards and commissions.

(B) *Attendance.* Duly appointed members of boards and commissions shall be required to attend no less than half the official meetings of the board or commission held within a given calendar year unless specifically excused by the Chair of such board or commission and said excused absences noted in the minutes. Failure to attend no less than half of the official meetings within a given calendar year, without excuse of the Chairperson, shall be considered as formal notice of resignation from said board or commission. In addition, failure to attend four- consecutive regular meetings without excuse of the Chairperson, shall be considered as formal notice of resignation from said board or commission.

(C) *Exceptions.* The requirements of this subsection shall not apply to attendance at special meetings, or of meetings of committees or subcommittees, including committees of the whole, established by a board or commission pursuant to § [32.07](#) Committees and Subcommittees.

(D) *Annual review.* The Council shall conduct an annual review of the attendance of members of boards and commissions established by the Council.

(E) *Vacancies.* The successor to any member of a board or commission who has been removed pursuant to this subsection shall be appointed pursuant to § [32.06](#) Appointment and Terms.

(Ord. 737, passed 6-16-2015)

The Park and Rec Commission would like to discuss at the January 2022 commission meeting.

IX. Old Business

- A. Southwood Park Budget – Per the commission, Cathy Troendle will need to present (in person) the proposed 2022 budget to the Park & Rec commission.
- B. Southwood Park Fee-For-Service work order between Southwood Nature Preserve and Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa. This is a contract that is already in the works and was signed appropriately by all required. This will come out of the Southwood Park 2021 budget.
- C. Rotary Park Signs - Tabled

X. Reports from Staff

- A. Approved Park Policy & Fees – Lisa stated the proposed Park Policy & Fees were approved by council with the following change: Deposit can be collected on line by credit card and also, deposit will not be returned if the party does not abide by all rules. An additional \$50.00 charge has been added to the fee schedule for additional tours.
- B. Park & Recreation Budget Spending – This was tabled by City Council.

XI. Reports from Commissioners & Park Liaisons

None

XII. Adjournment