



City of North St. Paul
Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes

May 25th, 2022

6:30 PM

The May 25th, 2022 Parks & Rec Commission meeting was held in the Sandberg Room of North St. Paul City Hall, 2400 Margaret Street, North St. Paul MN 55109

I. Call to Order

Chair Lloyd Grachek called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

II. Roll Call

Lloyd Grachek, Chair - present

Laura Greenlee-Karp, Vice Chair - absent

Larry Amsden - absent

Heather Haas –absent

Ingrid Koller - present

Sue Springborn – present

Nancy Thorsen - present

Sarah Zahradka – present

Arthur Alvarez, Jr - present

Council Liaison: Tim Cole present

Staff: Jill Officer – present

III. Adopt Agenda

On motion to adopt the agenda by Commissioner Ingrid Koller, seconded by Commissioner Nancy Thorsen with all present voting aye (6-0), motion carried to adopt the agenda.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On motion to approve the April 27th, 2022 meeting minutes by Commissioner Sarah Zahradka, seconded by Commissioner Ingrid Koller, with all present voting aye (6-0), motion carried to approve the minutes.

V. Meeting Open to Public – one attendee, no comments

VI. Public Hearings – None

VII. Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations

- A. Discussion of Urban Ecology and Environmental Center ownership- city owns the parks, Ramsey County did not have any information on who owns the informational signs and did not have any interest in replacing and gave NSP approval to remove.

Other items noted that needed removal. Only parking lot for Urban Ecology trail is in bus parking lot. Maybe look at doing improvements here and what we could possibly do at Environmental –sidewalk, park bench. Checking on doing the title search for both.

- B. Commissioners discussed the signage and were advised on a different sign company and timing on seeing an option before ordering all of them and getting final prices.
- C. Group requests to receive WSB analysis of demographics, city staff explains it's not the complete info and that WSB suggested still asking those in the neighborhood. Staff to request what WSB has as a starting point.
- D. Downtown park discussion of finding green space for new builds. Several areas mentioned downtown.
- E. Commissioner Zarahdaka suggests selecting what projects to work on, they talked about most of the parks that were in the 1-5 year plan and the group voted on prioritization of projects to start working on getting pricing and planning. 1) park signs-as soon as possible, 2) Urban Ecology-do clean up while working on signs 3) Hause Park-use current plan to move forward 4) Polar Park-start looking at updates to replace 25 year old equipment, 5) Downtown, 6) McKnight, 7) Northwood
- F. Suggested to use Hause Park plan with tennis courts and pickleball courts. Staff to start asking for pricing and to obtain contractor input.
- G. Commissioner Alvarez suggests to tackle downtown Park, Council Member Cole suggests making a sub-committee. Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Koller and Commissioner Grachek join and Commissioner Zarahdka to be invited by email.
- H. Next month's meeting can discuss McKnight and Casey.
- I. Council Member Cole inquires in ball field usage, suggests multi use and re-evaluating usage in areas.
- J. Commissioner Grachek and city staff to look at Polar to assess improvements.

Commissioner Springborn motions to have public works removes signs, take out benches that are broken and clean up Urban Ecology. Commissioner Koller seconds, will all voting aye. Motion passes to remove items from Urban Ecology.

VIII. Reports from Staff

IX. Reports from Commissioners & Park Liaisons

X. Adjournment

On motion by Commissioner Sue Springborn, seconded by Commissioner Nancy Thorsen with all present voting aye (6-0), motion carried to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM

Next Park and Recreation Meeting is scheduled for June 22nd, 2022 at City Hall in the Sandberg room, 2400 Margaret St, North St Paul, MN 55109