

City of North Saint Paul
April 18, 2023
Approved City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Monge called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Cole
Council Member Schweer
Council Member Wong
Council Member Nordby
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, Police Chief Phil Baebenroth, Public Works Director Ron Ritchie, Community Development Director Brandy Howe, Communications Kari Erpenbach

III. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Wong, seconded by Council Member Schweer, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the agenda.

IV. TOPICS

A. North St. Paul Police Foundation

Buddy Martin, representing the North St. Paul Police Association, provided a brief overview of the foundation and its mission. He discussed how the foundation benefits the City and how it can financially support the Police Department with charitable donations and fundraising efforts. The goal for 2023 was to start the foundation and fund raise. One goal for 2024 would be to fund the K-9 program.

B. McKnight Field – Field Use Fee Discussion

Community Development Director Howe presented this item and stated this was back on the agenda at the request of Mayor Monge. Ms. Howe reviewed the previous fee schedule and provided background information on the fields. Staff provided an overview of field maintenance and Public Works provided a cost estimate. Mike Svenson with North St. Paul Youth Baseball Association discussed field maintenance in more detail. Mr. Svenson also noted the fees collected go towards scholarships and the purchase of equipment.

The City Council discussed topics including North St. Paul youth residents, quantity of games per week, student led field maintenance, and non-profit versus for profit groups using the field. Public Works Director Ritchie added with the School District using the fields, they are maintained regardless of who uses them. He also noted it would not be beneficial for kids to help

maintain the fields as they could cause damage to the fields. Ms. Howe explained the City is not allowing field usage without fee payment and clarified the field maintenance comes down to what can be done during day time hours versus what needs to be done at night or on the weekends, causing the City to pay overtime. The Council discussed solutions such as weekend usage require payment, priority for North St. Paul non-profit organizations, and minimal fee requirement as a way to track usage. Council Member Schweer suggested looking into insurance liability. The Council will discuss this again at a later date.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), meeting is adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk