



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

June 28, 2023

6:30 PM

The June 28, 2023 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 Grachek called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

II. Roll Call

Lloyd Grachek, Chair - present

Laura Greenlee-Karp, Vice Chair - present

Ingrid Koller - present

Sue Springborn - present

Sarah Zahradka - present

Arthur Alvarez, Jr - present

Joseph Fraham - absent

Council Liaison: Cassidy Schweer-present

Staff: Jill Officer – present

III. Adopt Agenda

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

- A. On motion to approve the May 24, 2023 meeting minutes by Commissioner Koller, seconded by Commissioner Springborn, with all present voting aye (6-0), motion carried to approve the minutes.

V. Meeting Open to Public - None

VI. Public Hearings

- A. No public hearing scheduled.

VII. Commission Business, Action Items & Recommendations

A. Presentation from ACC on Mural at Silver Lake

Chair of the Art and Culture Commission Tom Sonnek presented this item and expressed his desire to coordinate with the City. He described the size and intent of the mural and added the vision to create a mural that is very artistic and of high quality. Mr. Sonnek stated there are 3 muralists and provided examples of their ideas. Arts and Culture Commission will choose a muralist at the July 12th meeting.

Commissioner Springborn inquired about a Native American artist or theme. Chair Grachek suggested a plaque giving a brief description of the mural and inquired if this project will require funding from the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Sonnek noted the Arts and Culture Commission's budget for this mural is approximately \$4000.

Commission members expressed their appreciation of this project and suggested ideas such as a realistic nature theme, small cost for any additional prints, realistic lake colors and neighborhood input and communication. Commissioner Koller also recommended protecting and saving as many trees as possible.

Council Liaison Schweer appreciated the idea and expressed her satisfaction with the completed utility box wraps done by the Arts and Culture Commission.

B. Community Garden Discussion

Parks and Recreation Staff Jill Officer updated the Commission on the progress of this discussion. She provided a printed copy of City properties related to park spaces and open land. She noted the requirements of a community garden and the City's available funds. The Commission provided their input and suggestions that included location, water availability, visual perspective, responsibility, quieter less populated areas, various shaped land uses, lots or spaces that would not need a lot of pavement removal, and aligning this with the Master Plan. Ms. Officer will provide more information at the next meeting.

VIII. Old Business

There was no old business to share.

IX. Reports from Staff

A. Park Updates

Ms. Officer noted park signs are up at Northwood and Southwood Parks and staff are working on more signs at Silver and Colby Hills. She also discussed possible metal bench and bike rack locations. Ms. Officer stated Public Works is looking into this also. The Commission provided their location ideas. Ms. Officer noted the Little Library was approved with a completion date of end of July. The City was awarded a grant for Hause Park with hopes of completion by next year.

Ms Koller suggested increased visibility and accessibility for food truck placement during Music in the Park and Food Truck Nights. Vice Chair Greenlee-Karp suggested the food trucks be placed on various streets. Chair Grachek and Commissioner Springborn noted parking might be a problem if food trucks are scattered throughout the event. She also suggested providing more social media notifications and marketing for all community events.

Commissioner Alvarez inquired about the usage of the tennis courts at McKnight Park. He recommended one court could be rescued and refurbished. There was also discussion among the Commission regarding use of that area. Their ideas were an expanded parking lot, playground or play structure, skate park, and a dog park.



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

Vice Chair Greenlee-Karp suggested giving the city event planner the one-day activities in order to reduce the quantity of events for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

It was noted that July 26th is Food Truck Night is also the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting date.

B. Art Fest Budget Update

Ms. Officer stated the requested budget increase remains with the City Manager and recommended planning the festival with the original budget amount.

C. Community Outreach Update – Survey and Park

Ms. Officer stated the park survey is out and encouraged all residents to complete it. She stated a possible stakeholder meeting late summer or early fall.

X. Reports from Commissioners & Park Liaisons

Commissioner Koller inquired about speaking to an invasive species specialist for Silver Lake.

Vice Chair Greenlee-Karp inquired about consistent and updated communication between the Southwood Task Force and the City. Council Liaison Schweer suggested a discussion about this at a later date.

XI. Adjournment

On motion by Commissioner Zahradka, seconded by Commissioner Koller, with all present voting aye (6-0), motion carried to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 P.M

Next Park and Recreation Meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2023 at City Hall in the Sandberg Room;
2400 Margaret St, North St Paul, MN 55109