



**Park and Recreation Commission
Special Workshop Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2024
5:00 PM**

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lloyd Grachek called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION

Lloyd Grachek, Chair
Laura Greenlee-Karp, Vice-Chair
David Andren, Commissioner
Ben Hansen, Commissioner
Ingrid Koller, Commissioner, excused
Sue Springborn, Commissioner
Sarah Zahradka, Commissioner

STAFF/LIAISONS

Cassidy Schweer, City Council Liaison, excused
Sara Lang, Staff Liaison
Riley Grams, Community Development Director

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Chair Grachek called for a motion to adopt the June 17, 2024 meeting agenda.
M/Andren, S/Springborn
Motion carried 6-0.

IV. TOPICS

A. Discussion on Park and Open Space Master Plan

Commissioner Andren began by noting the Country Club Park lot was too small to build on when it was previously assessed but proposed that be a site for a future community garden. Commissioner Springborn added that there was previous hesitation by neighbors of Country Club Park for amount of traffic that may come through the neighborhood with a community garden. Commissioner Andren mentioned that previous equipment at the park was removed due to safety concerns, and previous attempts to sell the lot have not been successful. Commission Chair Grachek asked to have City Staff follow up with the City Engineering team to evaluate the space again for potential sale or building.

Commission Vice-Chair Greenlee-Karp recalled that previous conversations within the Commission noted that Northwood Park or McKnight Field would be good places to explore community gardens. Commissioner Zahradka feels strongly against a community garden at McKnight Field as it doesn't seem to fit the land usage and proposed waiting to add community garden to any future plans to assess



locations for the best placement. Commissioner Springborn noted that the community has voiced that they are interested in have a community garden, as shown in the diagram in the Park and Open Space Master Plan.

Commission Vice-Chair Greenlee Karp was interested in knowing more about HGA Park Planning Consultant contract and where that stands. Staff Liaison Lang confirmed there is a meeting scheduled between HGA and City staff for July.

Commissioner Hansen asked about the survey response that noted the public would like to see an amphitheater in North St. Paul and what the public would use that space for moving forward. The Commission agreed there may be opportunities for more Music in the Park or Movies in the Park with an amphitheater. Commissioner Zahradka suggested noting that the survey on page 47 was taken in 2023. It was also noted that community engagement will also take place by HGA which may bring more inclusive results.

Commissioner Springborn requested to edit a typo on page 45 of the document by changing “Polar Area” to “Polar Arena.”

The Commission addressed the public comments provided in the packet. Commission Chair Greenlee-Karp addressed the comments calling for consistent formatting across City documents by noting that this plan is the start of new planning moving forward and that the Commission is comfortable with the language used throughout the document. Staff Liaison Lang asked the Commission to address the ADA concerns brought forth in the public comments as well. Commission Chair Greenlee-Karp noted in any new project in the parks, ADA requirements are addressed and standards are met. ADA requirements are always considered by the Commission when recommending new projects. The goal is to have all parks ADA compliant in the future. The Commission agreed that the note on page 6 of the document that references using the 2018 ADA Transition Plan as part of planning guidance is accurate and sufficient. Commission Vice-Chair Greenlee-Karp stated that the Commission is grateful for person making suggestions for public comment and that the Commission is comfortable with this document with the suggested edit as it is a comprehensive and well thought out plan.

Commissioner Springborn asked about the reference to Bike North St. Paul on page 6 and asked for that to be removed as it is not an official plan.

Community Development Director Riley Grams said that this is a really clear and comprehensive plan that he feels, with the minor edits, is ready to go in front of City Council. Staff will make the requested changes to the plan and bring back to one of the upcoming Park and Recreation Commission meetings for formal recommendation to present to City Council.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Grachek asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting a 5:35 PM.
M/Andren, S/Zahradka
Motion carried 6-0.

The next regularly scheduled Park and Recreation Commission Meeting is Wednesday, June 26th, 2024 at 6:30 PM.