



**Park and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2024
6:30 PM**

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION

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

STAFF/LIAISONS

Cassidy Schweer, City Council Liaison, absent
Sara Lang, Staff Liaison

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Chair Grachek called for a motion to adopt the November 20, 2024 meeting agenda.
M/Andren, S/Springborn
Motion carried 6-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes from October 23, 2024 PRC Meeting

Chair Grachek called for a motion to approve the October 23, 2024 meeting minutes.
M/Zahradka, S/Andren
Motion carried 6-0.

V. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl at 2750 Chisholm Ave spoke about the Council meeting last night and that Council approved the payment of the park dedication fees that were due from a previous build.

VI. COMMISSION BUSINESS, ACTION ITEMS 7 RECOMMENDATIONS

A. HGA Updates



Tryg Hansen from HGA updated the Parks and Recreation Commission on the status of the park planning project. HGA thanked the Park and Recreation Commission and the City for their work and collaboration on this project.

Mr. Hansen noted that the previously proposed costs will be more refined for the final concept plan as the park ideas have continued to take shape. There may be opportunity for grant funding for each of the spaces as well as potential programming partnerships.

The first park that was highlighted was the Downtown Open Space which includes some informal seating, swings, and an area for future flexibility.

The second park that was highlighted was the 3rd Street Open Space that includes nature play and a community garden. This project could easily be completed in a phased format with nature play separate from the community garden. A partnership with an organization for the community garden is highly encouraged for implementation and ongoing maintenance. A new sidewalk would also be proposed on the east side of 3rd Street for accessibility purposes.

The final park is the McKnight Athletic Complex which includes a phased renovation. The first phase would include a renovation to the parking lot, an addition of a mini pitch, a skate & bike area, a playground and an area for an event space. In the design, the court sports were removed as the desire from the community for those areas were significantly less than the other included areas. The second phase would include a potential addition of a park building and flexible fields. The designs include access for Public Works for storage. HGA encourages that the city continues conversation with ISD 622 around future use agreements.

B. Recognition of Sue Springborn

Staff Liaison Lang began by noting Commissioner Springborn's invaluable contribution to the Park and Recreation Commission and length of service with the City. Commissioner Springborn will be formally recognized at the December 17 City Council meeting.

Chair Grachek thanked Commissioner Springborn for her work with the Commission and the City. The Commissioners all expressed their thoughts about Sue and how she will be missed on the Commission.

VII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

Staff Liaison Lang had no updates.

VIII. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS & PARK LIAISONS

Commissioner Koller would love to see a swing back at Silver Lake.

Commissioner Andren noted that all the trails are now open at the Southwood Nature Preserve and that continued tree work will happen throughout the winter.

Vice-Chair Greenlee-Karp had nothing to report.

Commissioner Zahradka had nothing to report.

Chair Grachek noted that interviews are currently happening for the vacancy on the Commission and decisions will be made soon.



Commissioner Springborn thanked the Commission for her time.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Grachek asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM.

M/Springborn, S/Andren

Motion carried 6-0.

The next regularly scheduled Park and Recreation Commission Meeting will be on January 22, 2025.