



**Park and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2025
6:30 PM**

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Greenlee-Karp called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION

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

STAFF/LIAISONS

Cassidy Schweer, City Council Liaison
Sara Lang-Noyola, Staff Liaison

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Chair Greenlee-Karp called for a motion to adopt the October 22, 2025 meeting agenda.
M/Andren, S/Koller
Motion carried 5-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of Minutes from September 24, 2025 PRC Meeting

Chair Greenlee-Karp called for a motion to approve the September 24, 2025 meeting minutes.
M/Zahradka, S/Andren
Motion carried 5-0.

V. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

No members of the public were in attendance.

VI. COMMISSION BUSINESS, ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. 2026 CIP Brainstorming

Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola presented the future CIP proposals that the Parks and Recreation Commission submitted to the City Council. Staff is asking for the PRC to begin brainstorming ideas for the items listed in 2026. This would include photos, examples, costs, etc. for the projects, similar to what was completed for the 2025 projects. The next steps would be for Commissioners to bring ideas to the November meeting to be discussed as a group and then in January, Public Works can come to the meeting to discuss the ideas from their perspective.

The projects for 2026 include the Casey Lake Open Air Shelter (location and design recommendations), Casey Lake Park Active Playground (location and design recommendations), Colby Hills Small Park Add-On (design recommendations) and the Playground at McKnight.

Colby Hills Small Park Add-On is assigned to Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola noted that no other features will fit on the side of the park with the current playground, so future considerations would be for the grassy area across the street. Currently that space is used for a hockey rink and would need additional considerations to make it ADA compliant. The Commission has agreed on tabling the discussion on the Colby Hills add-on.

Commissioner Lucas suggested not adding a Gaga ball pit at Casey Lake park in 2026.

Vice-Chair Zahradka recommended pushing the active playground at Casey Lake Park several years to focus on McKnight. The Commission agreed that Casey Lake has been heavily focused on recently and recommended focusing on McKnight.

The Commission recommended a Special Meeting on December 10th at 6:30pm in the Sandberg Room to review the HGA prepared documents and collaborate on recommendations for McKnight.

VII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola noted that Public Works has been working on leveling three of the softball fields to assist with drainage. The 4th field was completed in 2024.

The Park Rental Policy for 2026 was approved by City Council last night with one change which is to alter the policy from noting deposit checks are mailed after Council approved in 2-4 weeks to 4-6 weeks. Council Member Schweer mentioned that the City Council noted that our facilities are still inexpensive however she recommended doing slight increases over the next few years and the Council agreed. The Council also agreed on the alcohol fee as North St. Paul is one of the only cities to allow alcohol in their park rentals.

VIII. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS & PARK LIAISONS

Chair Greenlee-Karp had no updates.

Vice-Chair Zahradka asked if cedar chips can be placed at the Urban Ecology Center near the flooded area to make the path a complete circle? Council member Schweer noted that it can be difficult with Watershed, DNR and County involvement but can explore the idea of taking ownership of the entire area.

Commissioner Andren had no updates.

Commissioner Grachek noted working with the DNR on possible grants for outdoor recreation and the updated application start date is December 2025 for 2026 applications



Commissioner Koller asked what the next steps could be to address the danger of the intersection at South Ave and the Gateway Trail. Vice-Chair Zahradka suggested going to speak in front of the City Council.

Commissioner Lucas had no updates.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Greenlee-Karp asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 PM.

M/Andren, S/Lucas

Motion carried 6-0.

The next regularly scheduled Park and Recreation Commission Meeting will be on November 19, 2025.