



**Park and Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 28, 2026  
6:30 PM**

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Zahradka called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

COMMISSION

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

STAFF/LIAISONS

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

**III. ADOPT AGENDA**

Vice-Chair Zahradka called for a motion to adopt the January 28, 2026 meeting agenda.  
M/Andren, S/Koller  
Motion carried 6-0.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Approval of Minutes from November 19, 2025 PRC Meeting

Vice-Chair Zahradka called for a motion to approve the November 19, 2025 meeting minutes.  
M/Grachek, S/Andren  
Motion carried 6-0.

**V. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC**

No members of the public were in attendance.

**VI. COMMISSION BUSINESS, ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A. Election of Officers



This agenda item has been pushed to the February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 meeting to allow for more members of the Commission to be present.

B. Park Representatives 2026

This agenda item has been pushed to the February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 meeting to allow for more members of the Commission to be present.

C. Grant Opportunity for Casey Lake Hockey Rink

Randy Miller, the North St. Paul Public Works Supervisor, presented the MN DNR Outdoor Recreation grant opportunity for the renovation of the hockey rink at Casey Lake Park. The deadline for the draft application is in February to receive feedback from the DNR. The deadline for the final draft is in March. If the Commission recommends applying for the grant, the next step will be to go to Council to present the idea. The current rink is 30+ years old, with soil that is uneven making the boards uneven. The material underneath the ice is grass, making it difficult to create and maintain the ice. Public Works would demolish the current rink, and Electric would take out the lighting. The new, same size rink would be on a concrete slab with energy efficient LED lighting and new dasher boards. A new trail and driveway would make it ADA compliant. An idea is to add some parking stalls at the end of the driveway, near the hockey rink, making it easier for users of the rink in the winter and the stalls could be designated for handicap parking in the summer for the ballfield. The rink could be striped for roller hockey or pickleball in the summer. In the fall, the rink could be used for the Autumn Arts Festival for vendors. A warming house or portable trailer could be considered as an additional feature. Both Miller and Lang-Noyola have heard from local associations that would be potentially interested in renting the rink if a new one is installed.

Commissioner Koller asked if trees would be affected by this project and Miller noted that the rink would not change size, therefore no trees would be removed.

Commissioner Andren asked if the surface would be elevated for drainage. Miller noted that the City will do soil boring and consult with engineering for grading to drain the correct way.

Vice-Chair Zahradka asked about instead doing an open-air shelter with heaters and chairs rather than a warming house. Zahradka also noted that she likes the parking idea and the road as it because it can turn into a mess in the winter.

Commissioner Andren asked about installing a gate at the end of the driveway to discourage driving on it in the summer. Miller noted it is a possibility but the goal would be to keep the walking trail separate from the driving lane and that the installation of a gate would also make it challenging for Public Works and the Police Department to drive in the park in the summer and the surrounding area is flat making it easy for drivers easy to get around a gate.

Commissioner Koller asked about future upgrades to the hockey rink at Northwood. Miller noted that currently the focus is on the Casey Lake rink as the rest of the park is pretty ADA compliant except for the hockey rink. He is open to future upgrades for the Northwood hockey rink.

Commissioner Lucas asked if the grant is just for hockey. Miller noted that it is an Outdoor Recreation grant and that the thought for using this grant towards the Casey Lake hockey rink is that it is difficult to maintain and that it would bring the rink into ADA compliancy.



Commissioner Andren asked if staff have already started the grant. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola noted that minimal work has been started on the grant as staff will be attending a webinar about the grant next week and will get started after that.

Commissioner Grachek asked if the current rink is ADA accessible. Miller noted it currently is not ADA accessible.

Commissioner Andren asked if this is an ongoing grant. Miller noted it has been offered over the last several years, but it is never guaranteed that it will continue into the future.

Vice-Chair Zahradka asked if the City is awarded the grant, can it be used for a different park and noted that the Commission may want to consider using it toward McKnight. Miller noted that the City could apply for the same grant in the future, if available, for McKnight.

Commissioner Grachek asked if park dedication funds can be used towards this project. Lang-Noyola noted it cannot as it is a reconstruction rather than a new park or feature.

Vice-Chair Zahradka asked if a small survey could be conducted at next week's Fire and Ice event to see what features the public would want to see with a new hockey rink.

Vice-Chair Zahradka called for a motion to approve the recommendation of moving forward with the MN DNR Outdoor Recreation grant application for the renovation of the hockey rink at Casey Lake Park. M/Andren, S/Grachek

Vice-Chair Zahradka expressed her thought that if the City is not awarded the grant for the Casey Lake hockey rink, that it is not a priority and the Commission would shift its focus back to McKnight.

Motion Granted 6-0

## **VII. REPORTS FROM STAFF**

Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola had no updates.

Public Works Supervisor Miller mentioned that the installation of the Polar Park playground is complete, but Public Works will install new wood chips in the spring.

Vice-Chair Zahradka asked if there was an update on the HUD documentation on McKnight fields. Lang-Noyola noted that documents from HUD were recently received and are currently under review by the City's legal team.

Commissioner Andren asked about the dead Southwood trees and if they still plan to be removed prior to spring. Miller noted the goal is to remove them before the ground thaws, weather permitting.

## **VIII. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS & PARK LIAISONS**

Vice-Chair Zahradka introduced new Commissioner Kealy. Commissioner Kealy noted he has lived in North St. Paul for 6 years and loves going with parks with his family.

Commissioner Grachek had no updates.

Vice-Chair Zahradka had no updates.



Commissioner Koller had no updates.

Commissioner Lucas had no updates.

Commissioner Andren had no park updates, however announced his resignation from the Commission. He noted he would like to see McKnight and 3<sup>rd</sup> St parks developed in the future.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chair Zahradka asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 PM.

M/Andren, S/Koller

Motion carried 6-0.

**The next regularly scheduled Park and Recreation Commission Meeting will be February 25, 2026.**