



**Park and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2026
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
William Kealy, Commissioner
Lloyd Grachek, Commissioner, excused
Ingrid Koller, Commissioner
Rachel Lucas, Commissioner
Vacant

STAFF/LIAISONS

Cassidy Schweer, City Council Liaison
Ron Ritchie, Public Works Director
Sara Lang-Noyola, Staff Liaison

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Chair Greenlee-Karp called for a motion to adopt the April 22, 2026 meeting agenda.
M/Zahradka, S/Lucas
Motion carried 5-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Approval of Minutes from March 25, 2026 PRC Meeting

Chair Greenlee-Karp called for a motion to approve the March 25, 2026 meeting minutes.
M/Koller, S/Lucas
Motion carried 5-0.

V. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

No members of the public were in attendance.

VI. COMMISSION BUSINESS, ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. McKnight Athletic Complex Updates

Ron Ritchie, the Public Works Director, spoke about the next steps for the McKnight Athletic Complex reconstruction. He noted the storage space that Public Works and Electric will need as well as highlighting the potential areas for parking and recreation and provided a proposal concept for the area. The proposed storage for Public Works and Electric will be used for snow removal, tree removal, electric poles, water main break recycle and other materials. The current storage is between the ballfields at McKnight near the highway as well as the dilapidated tennis courts.

The Commission was also provided with the original Housing and Urban Development documents regarding the land and the removal of any land restrictions.

The Commission was asked to provide feedback on the recreational features they would like to see at the site.

Vice-Chair Zahradka asked why this spot was chosen on the site. Ritchie noted there is a drainage ditch nearby for snow storage runoff and would be less noisy for the apartments at night if Public Works are in the area.

Commissioner Koller asked if the ballfield that would be removed with this proposal is rented much. Ritchie responded that it has not been rented much in recent years.

Vice-Chair Zahradka asked if there is a cost estimate for this project. Ritchie noted there is not an estimate at this stage.

Vice-Chair Zahradka asked if it is a possibility for the proposed storage to take up the two most southern ballfields in the pinwheel instead of the proposal provided. Ritchie mentioned that this was an idea that was developed but the City is open to exploring all options. It was noted that with the proposal provided, the City would recommend moving the playground and skatepark from the concept plan over and reconfiguring the parking lot.

Commissioner Lucas agrees with moving the storage elsewhere in the park.

Chair Greenlee-Karp stated that moving the storage would present the site as a park rather than a storage space. Chair Greenlee-Karp highlighted that the Parks and Recreation Commission wants a partnership with all parks and Public Works. It was also asked if the City Engineer can mark all potential drainage areas on a proposal.

Commissioner Lucas requested that the City Engineer provide all available options where storage could go on the site.

Commissioner Kealy noted foul balls from the baseball field may be a concern going into the storage area and mentioned the need to keep people out. Ritchie mentioned the storage would include fencing and a locked gate.

The next step is for staff to provide feedback to WSB, the City Engineering firm, who will create a proposal and bring that back to the Commission for review.

B. CIP Review

Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola noted that the Commission needs to begin thinking about the CIP and if there are any recommended changes. The suggestion is to come back to the next PRC meeting with recommendations. The CIP template form will be emailed to the Commission separately.

Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola acknowledge that the CIP will change with the updates to the McKnight project as well as if the City receives and accepts the grant for the Casey Lake Park outdoor hockey rink.

C. Parks Representatives 2026

Each year, the Parks and Recreation Commission assigns each Commissioner to at least one park to be a representative of and bring back concerns, questions and ideas.

Commissioner Lucas asked if Commission Kealy would take Northwood.

After discussion, Commissioner Kealy will represent Silver Lake, Northwood and Tower parks.

Vice-Chair Zahradka joined to help represent the McKnight Athletic Complex.

The other park representatives remained the same as shown in the packet for 2026.

VII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

A. Upcoming Events

Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola presented the Commission with the upcoming events in 2026. If you plan to volunteer, please contact the City Communications Coordinator Ava Griemert.

For the May 16th parks clean-up day, the Commission was asked to divide the parks amongst one another.

The Urban Ecology Center clean-up will have Vice-Chair Zahradka as the lead.

The Postal Credit Union Pond clean-up will have Commissioner Lucas as the lead.

The Commission asked if Commissioner Grachek can take the lead for the McKnight Athletic Complex. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola will follow-up.

The Silver Lake clean-up will be hosted by the Silver Lake Improvement Association and Commissioner Koller will take the lead.

Commissioner Lucas asked where to leave full garbage bags and Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola noted that the bags can be left along the busiest street so Public Works can find them.

The Friday before the clean-up, the Commissioners will need to pick up the gloves and bags for their respective parks. Those can be picked up from City Hall at the Community Development desk.

The Commission requested spending up to \$250 on poker sticks for the park clean up.

Chair Greenlee-Karp asked for a motion to purchase poker sticks up to \$250.

M/Zahradka, S/Lucas

Motion carried 5-0.



B. Summer Meetings in the Parks

Commissioner Lucas asked at the last PRC meeting if the Commission could discuss hosting meetings in the parks again in 2026. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola noted that the meetings should be held indoors for recording purposes.

Commissioner Koller likes hosting the meetings at different parks and being able to reach more of the public.

Commissioner Lucas asked if the Commission should host three meetings in the parks, two at Casey Lake Park and one at Hause park. The Commission discussed the idea and decided to host two meetings in the parks. The June meeting will be held at Casey Lake Park, and the July meeting will be held at Hause Park.

Vice-Chair Zahradka asked if a field trip by the Commission to visit each park would be a good idea. The Commission decided not at this time, but will each visit Colby Hills park before the next meeting for further discussion.

Commissioner Lucas asked to hang a “what do you want to see here” or feedback sign at each park. This conversation will continue at the next meeting.

Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola mentioned that Public Works will be working on finalizing Polar Park in the next few weeks so keep an eye out on your emails for information regarding ribbon cutting.

Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola noted that a sign for Gaga Ball instructions has been created and given to Public Works for installation at Northwood.

VIII. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS & PARK LIAISONS

Commissioner Koller is concerned about trees coming down at Silver Lake Park and if the trees are replaced. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola confirmed that trees are replaced one for one. Commissioner Koller also asked for information on the tree near beach area being treated and to confirm that it will not be removed. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola will follow up with the City Forester.

Commissioner Lucas biked by Tower Park and noted that it looks great.

Vice-Chair Zahradka requested information from the City Finance Director about the payments for Casey Lake Park and to confirm they are up in 2026. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola will follow-up. Vice-Chair Zahradka also mentioned she is a certified fitness instructor and will volunteer for events in the park.

Commissioner Kealy mentioned that near the Silver Lake beach, where trees were cut down, there are many small burs that are sharp. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola will follow up with Public Works to see if there is anything that can be done about them.

Chair Greenlee-Karp mentioned Commissioner Koller’s concern about the crossing of the Gateway Trail on South Ave and requested that the foliage begin to be maintained now. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola mentioned that it is maintained by Ramsey County but will communicate with them. Commissioner Koller mentioned there was a meeting with a Ramsey County Commissioner regarding that crossing and that there will potentially be solutions for safety.



IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Greenlee-Karp asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM.

M/Kealy, S/Lucas

Motion carried 5-0.

The next regularly scheduled Park and Recreation Commission Meeting will be May 27, 2026.