



**Park and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2026
6:30 PM**

North St. Paul– Casey Lake Park
2089 17th Ave E

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
Ingrid Koller, Commissioner
Rachel Lucas, Commissioner
Angela Froemming, 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 June 24, 2026 meeting agenda.
M/Grachek, S/Koller
Motion carried 7-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes from May 27, 2026 PRC Meeting

Chair Greenlee-Karp called for a motion to approve the May 27, 2026 meeting minutes.
M/Lucas, S/Zahradka
Motion carried 7-0.

V. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

Jim Selchow at 2590 Dianne St, read a statement, with support from 14 community members, commenting on the algae build up and lily pads in Casey Lake noting that the lake is unsightly and unusable. Mr. Selchow requested a letter drafted and signed by the Parks and Recreation Commission to City Council and the Watershed District asking for the water condition to be addressed.

John Schmahl at 2750 Chisholm Ave, commented on retention pond work at Casey Lake Park and that communication about the work has been limited and hard to find. Mr. Schmahl also commented on the



lights at Casey Lake Park near the shoreline which creates algae in the lake and suggested shutting the lights off at night.

VI. COMMISSION BUSINESS, ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Feedback Signs

The Commission requested to discuss creating signs for feedback at each park. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola noted she is working with the City Communications Coordinator to create video spotlights on each park asking for feedback. We have received a total of 23 responses as of noon today.

Vice-Chair Zahradka suggested the feedback signs are important in the parks because not all users of the parks are on social media. A suggestion was to pick a few parks for feedback signs and rotate them occasionally.

Commissioner Lucas agreed with Vice-Chair Zahradka and that signs will help capitalize on the people using the parks regularly. The suggestion was to place a sign in each park with a QR code that brings users to a contact form with a drop-down list of parks to select to provide feedback.

Commissioner Koller suggested the signs be large enough for users to notice.

Commissioner Froemming noted that QR codes can intimidate people and suggested feedback collection opportunities at events like the car show. Commissioner Lucas agreed with Commissioner Froemming the feedback forms could be provided at events the Commission hosts. For signs, the suggestion is the size of standard printer paper, laminated on a metal post.

Chair Greenlee-Karp noted that placing feedback signs at each park creates a consistency of park experience.

Council Liaison Schweer suggested an idea for the city to invest in signs for feedback or concerns throughout the City, including parks and downtown. Commissioner Lucas has seen signs like that in downtown St. Paul.

Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola will compile the feedback on the specific park that is focused on for the month and bring it to the following Parks and Recreation Commission meeting moving forward.

B. 45th Parallel Monument Proposal

The Arts and Culture Commission (ACC) has provided a high-level proposal for a monument at the 45th Parallel in the Southwood Nature Preserve. The ACC would like any questions and feedback from the PRC before proceeding any further with the project.

Chair Greenlee-Karp supports the idea of the acknowledgement however is not a fan of the design and believes it is contradictory to what Southwood is as a nature preserve. The suggestion is for the ACC to research other places that have had monuments in natural settings.

Commissioner Lucas agrees with Chair Greenlee-Karp and recommends a monument that is less obtrusive and blends in with the environment but supports the monument concept.

Commissioner Koller agrees with the recommendation of a natural-looking monument and would like the ACC to collect feedback from volunteers at Southwood and respect their opinions.

Vice-Chair Zahradka noted that National Park's use wood signs with etchings and would recommend that style to the ACC.

Commissioner Grachek recommended the ACC communicate with neighbors if the monument is very visible. Grachek agreed with the wooden sign recommendation and would like as much history as possible on the sign.

Chair Greenlee-Karp suggested the ACC consider a bench or combination of marker and bench for social media opportunities within the natural realm. Commissioner Lucas agrees with Chair Greenlee-Karp to make the monument a destination and attract non-residents. Chair Greenlee-Karp continued by noting there is currently signage throughout the park and would like a style that is also in line with what we already have there.

Commissioner Lucas asked if a line of rocks denoting where the parallel is throughout the entire park can be placed.

Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola will provide feedback to the Staff Liaison for the ACC.

VII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola provided updated budgets for the Park Fund and the Park Dedication Fund. Vice-Chair Zahradka asked Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola to provide paperwork to show the payoff date of Casey Lake Park. Commissioner Lucas asked for clarification on what projects are budgeted for in 2026. Commissioner Koller asked about a status update on the grant for the Casey Lake Park hockey rink. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola mentioned that the response is expected by the end of the month. Commissioner Lucas asked about the Urban Ecology Center proposed project and budget; Vice-Chair Zahradka described the potential project that includes a boardwalk to complete the path.

On Tuesday June 16th, The City Council approved a contract with WSB to begin site exploration and begin the process of design development for the McKnight Athletic Complex. WSB will attend future PRC meetings to collect feedback and present ideas. Chair Greelee-Karp asked the relationship status with HGA, who completed the initial park study for McKnight. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola said the contracted relationship has ended.

Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola reported that Public Works Director Ron Ritchie contacted the local Watershed District regarding a potential boardwalk around the Urban Ecology Center where it is currently very wet. Research into a potential project is still being conducted.

VIII. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS & PARK LIAISONS

Commissioner Kealy talked about Silver Lake and noted contacting Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola about the area around the park spinner being dug up and that Public Works will add mulch later this year. It was also noted that there have not been additional complaints on the burs at Silver Lake.

Commissioner Grachek talked about Southwood and asked for follow-up on dying trees on North end and mentioned seeing a Falcon or Hawk on North end of Southwood.

Commissioner Lucas talked about Casey Lake and the fireflies from 9pm-10pm, the mulberry trees fruiting and many other blooming plants. Lucas asked for follow-up on buckthorn on North side of the creek and foliage over the bridge that needs to be trimmed. Lucas asked for an update on the Medallion

hunt proposal and Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola noted that it will not be moving forward at this time but hopes that it will in the future. Lucas asked about how often the park feature videos will be produced and Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola noted monthly.

Vice-Chair Zahradka talked about Colby Hills and the Facebook comments from the feature video that includes leaving as is, no longer making the ice rink and a small dog park.

Chair Greenlee-Karp talked about Silver Lake concerns regarding user behavior. The fishing pier is commonly packed, so people are standing in the water fishing, particularly near the beach. Other items include a grill being left unattended, unsafe behavior at the beach and loud music at the beach. Additional enforcement was encouraged. Greenlee-Karp also mentioned seeing a large chair at an entrance of a park in another City and suggested talking about similar projects in the future that will draw people to North St. Paul.

Commissioner Koller talked about Silver Lake beach and said lifeguard services stopped there years ago but are important. Koller mentioned hosting the Silver Lake Splash to raise money for the lifeguard services. Koller expressed disappointment in behavior at Silver Lake and requested more Police patrols including walking the park. Staff Liaison Lang-Noyola mentioned passing the feedback along to Police and encouraged the Commission, as residents, to contact Police as well.

Commissioner Froemming gave a brief introduction of herself including frequenting the parks, playgrounds and green spaces. Froemming noted that it may be nice at Casey Lake Park to have a fence along 17th Ave to prevent accidents between children and vehicles.

Council Liaison Schweer spoke about the McKnight Athletic Complex and encouraged the Commission to continue to advocate for the project. Schweer stressed the importance of a partnership between Public Works and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

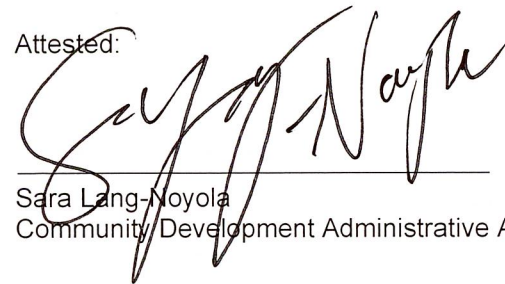
Chair Greenlee-Karp asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM.

M/Lucas, S/Zahradka

Motion carried 7-0.

The next regularly scheduled Park and Recreation Commission Meeting will be July 22, 2026 at Hause Park.

Attested:



Sara Lang-Noyola
Community Development Administrative Assistant

Approved:



Laura Greenlee-Karp
Commission Chair