

**CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

**July 24, 2019
6:30 PM**

North St. Paul Hause Park

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Lloyd Grachek, Chair
Laura Greenlee-Karp, Vice Chair
Larry Amsden
Heather Haas
Ingrid Koller
Nancy Thorsen
Sarah Zahradka
Tim Cole

Council Liaison: Candy Petersen (Absent)

Staff: Debra Gustafson, Strategic Operations Director / PRC Liaison
Keith Stachowski, Parks Coordinator
Sandra Bush, Community Development

Ex-Officio: Jim Naughton, NSPAA

III. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Commissioner Zahradka, seconded by Commissioner Koller with all present voting aye, motion carried to adopt the agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the June 26, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

On motion by Commissioner Haas, seconded by Commissioner Zahradka with all present voting aye, motion carried to approve the June 26, 2019 meeting minutes.

V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Note: This is a courtesy extended to persons wishing to address the Commission concerning issues that are not on the agenda. This discussion will be limited to 15 minutes.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A community meeting was scheduled at 6:00 p.m. prior to the regularly-scheduled PRC meeting. There was representation from the Police Department as well. **Community comments included the following:**

- Appreciate the renovation of Hause building and new playground. Zipline is a great addition to the playground.
- Nice to see the park being utilized.
- Enjoy the activities held at the park, e.g., Polar Explorers and Fire and Ice.
- Free Library Exchange is being used a lot more with the increased use/higher traffic at Hause.

Community concerns included the following:

- Need to increase Police Patrol to regulate people speeding, especially on Margaret, 3rd and 4th. This is an area with heavy children activity. Many of them riding bikes and darting out of driveways without looking.
- Continual problem with dogs not on a leash.
- People mistake the park for a dog park, or are at least using it as though it is a dog park.

Police emphasized the importance of calling 911 when the dog problem is occurring. A Community member stated he felt uncomfortable calling 911. Police stated that this is the most effective way to take care of the issue at hand as for Police to hear about it after the fact is not helpful. Police stated when calling 911 just make sure to indicate that the call is not an emergency. It was agreed that the public needs to be educated/informed on the City's dog policy. One suggestion was larger visible signs at the park. This is something PRC can look into.

- Bathrooms are locked and no water/water fountains are available.

Gustafson stated that the building would need to be kept locked when there is not a reservation, but stated that there is a porta potty on-site. She indicated that she would look into putting a water fountain in at Hause.

A. Review/Discussion/Recommendation: Casey Lake Shelter Acoustics. PRC to check into possible options/solutions for acoustic problem at Casey. Tabled for August meeting.

B. Review/Discussion/Recommendation: Halloween Trail Date Selection October 19th or 26th. PRC selected October 26th for the Halloween event.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

A. Review/Discussion: Budget Update – June. Gustafson summarized revenue/expenditures for June 2019.

B. Review Discussion: Polar Park Community Meeting – Wednesday, August 21st / 6-6:30 pm. Gustafson stated that she and Stachowski will conduct a community meeting to get their feedback regarding the Polar Park plan. She will then relay that information onto WSB. She invited anyone from PRC to join them. Grachek stated he will attend.

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONER AND PARK LIASIONS

A. Review/Discussion. Greenlee-Karp asked if PRC was going to pursue the high interest of a dog park. Stachowski will send information to PRC regarding his research on dog parks. McKnight fields were suggested as a possible site. PRC will meet at McKnight fields on September 25th at 6:00 p.m. to view the area and then proceed to City Hall for its PRC meeting. Tabled for September meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Cole, seconded by Commissioner Thorsen, with all present voting aye, motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 pm.

Next meeting: August 28, 2019, at Northwood Park (Community Meeting from 6-6:30 pm).