

**CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 28, 2019
6:30 PM**

North St. Paul Northwood Park

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Larry Amsden
Lloyd Grachek, Chair
Ingrid Koller
Sarah Zahradka
Heather Haas
Tim Cole

Absent: Laura Greenlee-Karp, Vice Chair
Nancy Thorsen

Ex-Officio: Jim Naughton, NSPAA

Council Liaison: Candy Petersen

Staff: Debra Gustafson
Keith Stachowski

III. ADOPT AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve the July 24, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

On motion by Commissioner Zahradka, seconded by Commissioner Haas with all present voting aye, motion carried to approve the July 24, 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.

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:**

- Northwood Park looks great.
- Not enough Ice Rink Use
- Lots of use of the new playground equipment
- Love the new playground equipment
- No recent public safety problems at the park.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. **Review/Discussion/Recommendation:** Casey Lake Shelter Acoustics – Tabled for next meeting.
- B. **Review/Discussion/Recommendation:** 2020 Event Dates. The PRC picked the following event dates for 2020:
- Fire and Ice:** Tentatively scheduled on January 3rd. Stachowski will check with Greenlee-Karp to see if that date works for Community Ed.
 - Egg Hunt:** April 11th
 - Concerts in the Park:** June 18th, July 23rd and August 20th
 - Star Watch:** Holding the building for October 1st and 8th. Will ask Thorsen to check with Mike Lynch to schedule a date.
 - Food Truck Night:** July 22nd
 - Trick or Treat Trail:** October 24th
- C. **Review/Discussion/Recommendation:** Polar Park Meeting Update. Gustafson stated there was a good turn out at the meeting, 20 residents attended. Those in attendance expressed interest to keep the park layout similar to its current layout. The residents also expressed interest in bringing back the ice-skating rink. WBS is currently working on developing a park plan for Polar Park, once it has been completed staff will bring back to the Commission for their review.
- D. **Review/Discussion/Recommendation:** Star Watch – Registration Underway. Gustafson stated that registration is full. This year there were quite a few non-resident reservations, staff recommended giving priority registration for residents next year, possibly only allow residents to register the first few weeks registration opens.
- E. **Review/Discussion/Recommendation:** Colby Hills Playground – The PRC stated they would prefer to do a Ribbon Cutting – Instead of going to tour McKnight tennis courts immediately before their next PRC meeting on September 25. Staff asked members to try to visit the tennis courts on their own sometime before the September meeting.
- F. **Review/Discussion/Recommendation:** Polar Explorers Program Review. Stachowski provided an overview. Stated the program had a wonderful turnout, mostly it was the same group of people that attended each event, the city would love to offer more events next year.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

- A. **Review/Discussion: Budget Update** – Gustafson summarized revenue/expenditures for July 2019.

B. Review/Discussion:

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS & PARK LIAISONS

- A. Review/Discussion:** Commissioner Zahradka gave an update on the Halloween Planning. Asked the Commission for assistance to secure additional organizations to have booths at the event.
- B. Review/Discussion:** Commissioner Koller brought up concerns about several ash trees at City Parks and expressed interested in having them be treated. Gustafson suggested having her attend a City Council meeting to express her concerns during the open to the public portion of the meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Cole, seconded by Commissioner Haas, with all present voting aye, motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm.

Next meeting: September 25, 2019 at City (Ribbon Cutting at Colby Hills Playground at 6pm) Meeting at City Hall at 6:30 p.m.