

**CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 28, 2020
6:30 PM**

The October 28th, 2020 meeting was held via Zoom and complied with all requirements of
Minnesota State Statute 13D.021.

Due to the Governor's Emergency Declaration, the Mayor has determined that in-person meetings during this pandemic are not practical or safe. All meetings of the City Council and other City-governed boards and commissions will be held by telephone or other electronic means until further notice. (Minn. Stat. 13D.021)

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Lloyd Grachek, Chair
Laura Greenlee-Karp, Vice Chair
Larry Amsden
Tim Cole (absent)
Heather Haas (absent)
Ingrid Koller
Sue Springborn
Nancy Thorsen
Sarah Zahradka

Council Liaison: Candy Petersen

Staff:
Scott Duddeck
Jill Officer
Olivia Boerschinger
Ron Ritchie

III. ADOPT AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve the September 23, 2020 regular meeting minutes

On motion by Commissioner Greenlee-Karp, seconded by Commissioner Springborn with all present voting aye, motion carried to approve the September 23rd 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.

Micah Hale- Eagle Scout Project – interested in updating North St Paul walking history tour, adding QR codes, updating signs and pamphlets. Will work with Commissioner Springborn for updated information. Will put a plan together for council and will contact committee within the next week.

Caleb and Tiffany Brian- concerns of Southwood Nature Preserve and the removal of plantings done by Kathy Troendle for erosion control in the area and the short notice/lack of communication before doing so. Appreciates the info and would like to have input in what vegetation the watershed uses in the upcoming renovation.

Morgan Dawley -city engineer from WSB-commends Kathy Troendle on efforts. Four cottonwood trees were split on both sides by lightning, those needed to be removed for safety reasons and resident requested. The watershed district approached city for dredging, removal of sediment, and to do some flood mitigation. It all came together at once and is a good opportunity to improve an antiquated design and improve on future required maintenance. The watershed district handles it all- low effort and cost from the city since they work on a larger scale with many cities.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Upcoming events:

- a. Medallion Hunt possibility- not moving forward
- b. Fire and Ice- not happening

B. Short Term Projects:

- a. Polar Park update –Concrete path is done. Snow postponed backfilling but on the list

C. Long Term Projects:

- a. **Casey Lake exercise equipment-** Cole and Zahradka wanted to present to council in October but this was stalled by recent events. Zahradka wants to continue moving forward. Would like direction on how to proceed and next steps. Other spaces in the city do not provide the space needed.
- b. **Pickle Ball options** –discussion tabled until park improvement plan is established.

D. New Business:

- a. **Southwood Nature Preserve-** Scott spoke to large trees being struck and being dangerous and the watershed district approaching the city. Introduced Morgan Dawley to speak more to the project. Expected dredging in January, meeting around December for planning. Commissioner Grachek speaks to the history of Southwood and will keep the Brians' in the loop and would also like to be part of the planning meeting.
- b. **Park improvement plan-** Duddeck did not see any history of a park improvement plan since 2013 and would like the group to put one together to follow new improvements. January's meeting will be set aside for planning. Would like to take in account the new development downtown when planning. Zahradka states the plan was on the list to do but is a big undertaking. Points out there is minimal green space downtown and nothing has been offered for parks to plan anything. Duddeck agrees there isn't a lot of downtown space and suggests a workshop to compile and express intentions to the City Council. Springborn reminds group the importance of improving the southern parks and Hause. Koller states we have discussed gathering information for the park improvement plan. Thorsen states they had gone through the parks to update information. Grachek –we may have to start over with a packet again for the parks to go through. Koller wants to solidify the next steps. The Park Improvement plan gets tabled often due to other priorities. Requests a timeline to make sure the plan is completed. Grachek suggests getting the list together and making the January meeting for planning. Scott and Candy believes the council would appreciate a firm plan.

- c. **General status discussion-** Greenlee-Karp directs Scott to the informal information in our annual goals as an idea of the committee's focus of energy and money. Also suggests looking into a natural play area by Southwood Nature Preserve, updating the McKnight tennis courts- potentially a splash pad. Scott would like to see an improvement at McKnight. Scott to put together a list of space owned by the city that could be available. Greenlee-Karp believes that would be helpful for council to see what parks is working with.
- d. **Goals and Achievements-** Grachek requests everyone send him items that have been done and what they would like to get done for the end of the year presentation. Greenlee-Karp volunteers to start a google doc for everyone to contribute.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

- A. Review/Discussion:** Financial Update –projected fund balance is \$344,700, not including park dedication fund
- B. Review/Discussion:** Star watch cancelled due to safety issues and presenter was not happy with the end product. Scott to call Mike to schedule for next year around same time.
- C. Review/Discussion:** Shrubs and tower at Silver Lake to carry over, along with other items

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONER'S & PARK LIAISONS

- A. Review/Discussion:**

X. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Thorsen, seconded by Commissioner Koller with all present voting aye, motion carried to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44pm.

Next meeting: November 18, 2020 – online meeting format via Zoom.