

**CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 27th, 2021
6:30 PM**

The January 27th, 2021 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 6:33 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Council Liaison: **Tim Cole**

Staff: **Scott Duddeck**
 Jill Officer
 Ron Ritchie

III. ADOPT AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve the November 18th, 2020 regular meeting minutes

On motion by Commissioner Springborn, seconded by Commissioner Greenlee-Karp with all present voting aye, motion carried to approve the November 18th, 2020 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.

Robbie Sivill from Troop 108 presented information on his Eagle Scout project for a Chimney Swift bird house at Southwood Nature Preserve. Spoke to cost, maintenance, location and timeline. Requested financial assistance for materials. Sending more information for the commission to review.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. NEW BUSINESS: Welcome Commissioner Alvarez

B. UPCOMING EVENTS:

I. Review/Discussion: Review 2021 calendar of events

-Music in the park, similar to other events planning will move forward but might have to change due to conditions. Commissioner Haas requested an update on the remaining donation money from last year and an updated contract for performers.

-Car show anticipated to run 6/4-9/24, one week longer to coincide with the completion of the new building downtown and potential parade/celebration on 9/23.

-Community meetings in the park under discussion, social distancing/masks makes it hard to understand and discuss. We can promote feedback through the website and possibly add a form if community has concerns about not having the community park meetings.

-Hopeful food truck night will occur.

-Getting star watch scheduled for fall.

-Silver Lake Splash not planned. Difficult to have this event when no lifeguards are budgeted for this summer.

-Egg Bonanza cancelled.

-All events will follow guidelines put forth by the CDC/Governor and/or local health department.

C. SHORT TERM PROJECTS:

I. Review/Discussion: Park Improvement plan- Comprehensive plan for 2040 is in place and park plan would align with that. Want to use February meeting for the Park Improvement Plan, have WSB do the update, put high level pricing in and suggest starting points. WSB to send a template of information needed to update plan and estimate for putting plan together. Suggested committing to visiting each park and updating the 2019 plan with comments.

II. Review/Discussion: Rotary Park signage –Joe Miller from the Rotary needs to know about signage recommendation in June of 2020. Mr. Duddeck requested more information.

VII. REPORTS FROM STAFF:

A. Review/Discussion: Southwood Park Update-Morgan Dawley from WSB reported the Ramsey County Watershed district will be starting work soon. Bids were received mid- January, work will begin February 17-23. This will help with maintenance and flood control. Hause Park pickle ball update-existing orientation is E/W, optimal is N/S. Plan presented showing 2 options of doing court only or court and ADA path connecting playground, courts, and shelter. Estimated cost of \$80,000/\$20,000 respectively. Actuals could come in less. Several options of 2 pickle ball courts, striping for both pickle ball and tennis and using moveable nets. Dawley stated courts are not in a condition for overlay. Discussion of pickle ball option: pickle ball is very popular at Silver Lake they wanted to bring it to the south part of town, the tennis courts need updating. ADA path needed. Downtown development close by.

Tennis courts need to be done but there is concern the price tag does not justify pickle ball. These improvements would qualify for the grant opportunity. The park commission does have money but wants to spend it the most appropriate way.

VIII. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONER'S & PARK LIAISONS

A. Review/Discussion: Outdoor Recreation Grants-commission and staff to research requirements and deadlines for additional funding. Other options were given to look into for funding.

B. Review/Discussion: Council Member Cole reiterates the need for the Park Improvement Plan for council to support improvements suggesting other areas and options also available.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next meeting: February 24th – online meeting format via Zoom.