

**CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 24th, 2021
6:30 PM**

North St Paul –via zoom

The City of North St. Paul has moved all of its public meetings online effective August 4, 2020. The move to online meeting access via Zoom ensures compliance with the Governor’s Emergency Executive Order and face covering mandate while providing our City Council members, staff and residents with safe and comfortable access to public meetings. Access information and links to meetings are available at northstpaul.org. This change to online meeting access will remain in effect until further notice. (Stat. 13D.02 subd. 4)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Laura Greenlee-Karp called the meeting to order at 6:30

II. ROLL CALL

Laura Greenlee-Karp, Vice Chair
Lloyd Grachek, Chair (Excused Absence)
Larry Amsden
Heather Haas
Ingrid Koller
Sue Springborn
Nancy Thorsen
Sarah Zahradka
Arthur Alvarez, Jr.

Council Liaison:	Tim Cole
Staff:	Jill Officer
	Lisa Ritchie
	Ron Ritchie

ADOPT AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the February 24, 2021 regular meeting minutes

On motion by Commissioner Hass, seconded by Commissioner Koller with all present voting aye, motion carried to approve the February 24th meeting minutes.

V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Eagle Scout presentation by Robbie Sivill. Robbie indicated that he plans to fundraise for this project so will not be seeking funds from the Parks and Rec commission. Council Representative Tim Cole inquired about the need for a public hearing and notifying the surrounding residents within 350 feet of the proposed project. The commission felt it necessary to gather more information and have the plans reviewed. Plans will be reviewed by MNSpect.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. New Business:

Commissioner Zahradka proposed a new idea for fundraising in place of a “Splash”. She recommended Easter eggs filled with peanut-free candy and toys. North St Paul residents could be an allotted quantity that would be sprinkled in the front yard of whomever purchased them on a certain date. There was conversation of incorporating something similar for different seasons/holidays. Commissioner Zahradka will forward a flyer from another non-profit that is currently doing this.

B. Upcoming Events:

Commissioner Thorsen indicated Starwatch is booked. Casey Park shelter is also reserved for this event.

C. Short Term Projects:

i) Review/Discussion: Park Improvement plan – Establish 2020 - 2022 priorities

The commission reviewed the survey results. The commission reviewed and prioritized park improvements for the 1 to 2-year priorities. See Exhibit A

ii) Review/Discussion: Donation benches

Per Lisa Ritchie, A few weeks ago, Darlene Sarne had approached Public Works Supervisor Ron Ritchie with a proposal to install a granite bench at Hause bench in memory of her husband, son and daughter. The family lived close Hause and spend a lot of time at the Hause skating rink over the years. Lisa Ritchie indicated that she had spoken to Darlene Sarne to let her know the city had adopted a policy to keep the benches consistent in all parks. A donation could be made to our North St. Paul Park fund if she would like a North St. Paul bench placed in memory of her family but a granite bench would need to be approved by City Council. Lisa told Darlene that she would present this to council on Darlene’s behalf if she wanted her to but Darlene declined stating she didn’t want to ask for any special favors. Because of the vandalism she has seen on the North St. Paul benches, she wasn’t interested in a North St. Paul bench as she has noticed vandalism and scratched graffiti in others.

iii) Review/Discussion: Rotary Sign

Lisa stated that Lloyd Grachek had emailed her to inquire about a template to be used for design. Per Scott Duddeck, the copy for the sign should be submitted and staff will handle the layout. The Rotary will also need to send the money for the sign to the city and the city will place the order. The sign needs to be consistent with the new signage that will be placed in the city but exact signage has not been selected yet.

D. Long Term Projects:

i) Review/Discussion: Establish 2023 - 2025 priorities

To be discussed at next meeting, April 28, 2021

ii) Review/Discussion: Establish 2026 (+) priorities

To be discussed at next meeting, April 28, 2021

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF:

Financials

Park Dedication Cash Balance as of March 24 = \$237,223.80

Park Fund Cash Balance as of March 24 = \$331,089.61

The commissioners asked if Jason Zimmerman could attend a meeting in the near future to explain the financial.

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS & PARK LIAISONS

Council Liaison Tim Cole proposed going back to meeting in the parks, COVID and weather permitting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next meeting: April 28th, 2021 @ 6:30 via zoom