

**CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 28, 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

Chair, Lloyd Grachek called the meeting to order at 6:30

II. ROLL CALL

Lloyd Grachek, Chair
Laura Greenlee-Karp, Vice Chair
Larry Amsden
Heather Haas (absent - excused)
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 Zahradka, seconded by Commissioner Springborn with all present voting aye, motion carried to adopt the agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the March 24, 2021 regular meeting minutes

On motion by Commissioner Greenlee-Karp, seconded by Commissioner Grachek with all present voting aye, motion carried to approve the March 24th meeting minutes.

V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No one from the public attended

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. New Business:

1. Sponsorship for the old Postal Credit Union park

Lloyd indicated Postal Credit Union sponsored a sign that is still up and should be updated/replaced with a new sponsor. Sue Springborn inquired about what the requirements were. Lloyd stated that he would look into this and work with Lisa to gather the information on the requirements.

2. The discussion of considering new/additional bands for music in the park

was tabled as Heather was absent but the commission did indicate that it would be nice to have event changed to two times per month. Laura stated that she is willing to help coordinate if needed.

3. Pickleball reservations

The commission discussed placing a sign in the appropriate park(s) for allocating/limiting time for pickleball use per a recommendation from a citizen. A motion was made by commissioner Koller to purchase and install a sign that reads: Priority Pickleball Court / Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat 9:00AM to 11:00 AM. Commissioner Thorsen seconded the motion.

4. Rotary Park Signage Status

The commission previously made a motion to approve up to \$4000 for a sign. Jill is currently researching vendors and is looking for quotes on signage.

5. Election of Officers

Commissioner Koller made a motion to keep the same officers in place. Chair, Lloyd Grachek and Vice-Chair, Laura Greenlee-Karp. Commissioner Springborn seconded the motion with all present voting aye, motion carried to elect Chair, Lloyd Grachek and Vice-Chair, Laura Greenlee-Karp for 2021.

B. Upcoming Events:

C. Short Term Projects:

- i) Park Improvement plan – The commission discussed priorities for Hause Park. Whether it be tennis courts, pickleball courts, volleyball, badminton or basketball. Commissioner Cole suggested the commission complete and present the Park Improvement Plan before moving forward with any projects exceeding \$30,000. The commission agreed to “table” the Hause Park discussion for now.

D. Long Term Projects:

- i) Review/Discussion: Establish 2023 - 2025 priorities
 - 2 – 3 year priorities were set and agreed upon
- ii) Review/Discussion: Establish 2026 (+) priorities
 - 3 - 5 year priorities were set and agreed upon
 - The commission discussed the possibility of a Splash Pad in the downtown area or a park. Commissioner Zahradka stated that she has always had a vision for a Splash Pad in the downtown area to draw families into the downtown area. The commission indicated natural play equipment would be a great asset to Southwood Park. Commissioner Zahradka stated the equipment at Silver Lake will need to be replaced at the end of its 20-year life span.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF:

Lisa reported that per Scott Duddeck, League of Minnesota Risk Control will be doing an annual evaluation of all parks in the upcoming months.

Lisa reminded the commission that public meetings must be accessible to all and should be considered when selecting a location for meetings in the parks.

Sue Springborn stated she had visited Northwood Park and found the fence around the water tower is no longer there. Ron Ritchie gave a bit of history and indicated the computer equipment that is easily accessible belongs to a cell phone provider. The commission all agreed this is a potential hazard. Commissioners Alvarez and Koller stated their concerns on a potential liability. Commissioner Springborn made a motion to notify City Council and recommend placing a fence around the water tower. Commissioner Koller seconded the motion with all present voting aye, motion carried to recommend a fence be installed around the water tower at Northwood Park.

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS & PARK LIAISONS

Park Liaison Tim Cole announced:

- Robbie's scout project was approved by Council and all commissioner are willing to donate to the project.
- The proposed benches and table were also approved by council.
- The PRC meetings need to wrap up within 60-90 minutes rather than the 120(+) that they have been going.
- Air Force Jr ROTC is looking for volunteer hours for park clean up – this will be discussed at the next PRC meeting.
- Tim proposed moving the meetings to the parks for the summer.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Next meeting: May 26th at Hause Park 6:00PM