

MARCH 2011 MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2011

Location: Rice Community Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynda Anderson, Susan Bishop, Jonathan Carter, Andy Trcka and Carrie Wasley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Erick Goodlow, Dave Haley, Paul Middleton and Betsy Mowry

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Hahm, Diana Berchem, Kathy Korum

GUESTS: Tom Russ, Bill Driver, Jennifer Porwit, John McCormick, Betsy Wehrwain, and Triesta Brown

1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTION, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Wasley.
- b. Commissioner Trcka moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Carter 2nd the motion. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor with four Commissioners absent.
- c. Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the February 2011 minutes. Commissioner Bishop 2nd the motion. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor with four Commissioners absent.
- d. Commissioner Carter moved to approve the January 10, 2011 Public Hearing Roster. Commissioner Trcka 2nd the motion. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor with four Commissioners absent.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Election of Officers

Chair Wasley opened nominations for the Parks and Recreation Commission “chair” position. Commissioner Trcka nominated Commissioner Carter. There were no more nominations given at which Chair Wasley announced closure to further nominations. Commissioner Carter accepted the nomination. Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the nomination; Commissioner Bishop 2nd the motion. The vote was unanimous, with four Commissioners absent, to approve Commissioner Carter as the new chair to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Chair Wasley opened nominations for the Parks and Recreation Commission “vice chair” position. Commissioner Carter nominated Commissioner Trcka. There were no more nominations given at which Chair Wasley announced closure to further nominations. Commissioner Trcka accepted the nomination. The vote was unanimous, with four Commissioners absent, to approve Commissioner Trcka as the new vice chair to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Wasley presented Chair Carter with the gavel. Chair Carter took the seat and proceeded to Chair the rest of the meeting.

b. Como Regional Park Advisory Committee Structure

Director Hahm gave a brief overview of the Como Regional Park Advisory Committee then introduced Kathy Korum. Kathy continued to add that the intension of this committee is to ensure success to future management of Como Park. The Committee will serve in an advisory capacity as part of the Parks and Recreation Commission and will facilitate community input.

Kathy will facilitate the Committee as the lead Parks and Recreation representative. This Committee will be considered a subcommittee to the Parks and Recreation Commission and will be reported upon at each Parks and Recreation Commission monthly meeting. A Parks and Recreation Commissioner will be included as a committee member.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will be asked to begin appointments to the Committee at the April meeting. The Department of Parks and Recreation is asking for a minimum two-year commitment. The group will meet three times during April and May 2011 and then once a month. The Committee status will be revisited as part of the 2013 Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan.

Commissioner Wasley motioned to accept the establishment of this new Committee. Commissioner Bishop 2nd the motion with a unanimous vote in agreement. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor with four Commissioners absent.

3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. Monthly Highlights

Director Hahm talked about Senator Franken visiting Scheffer Recreation Center on Presidents Day. Mayoral staff, Councilmember Carter, a Saint Paul Public School teacher, and Parks staff met with the Senator to discuss a variety of topics around education, recreation programming, and the challenges ahead.

b. Budget Update

Director Hahm indicated the State budget outlook is unchanged for the City of Saint Paul since previous reports.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

- a. Second Shift** –Commissioner Bishop
No report available.

b. **Blooming St. Paul** – Commissioner Anderson

Commissioner Anderson reported the Butterfly Garden at the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory is being replaced with a vegetable garden for the summer; the Hanging Basket Program is doing well; and there currently is available space for a community garden near Grand Avenue and Merriam Park

Commissioner Anderson also mentioned that she is now attending Urban Ag Task Force meetings – use of public spaces for food production. Director Hahm indicated that this is a new trend and currently is in the initial stages of information gathering.

c. **Transportation Advisory Board** – Commissioner Trcka

Commissioner Trcka said the board is setting agendas. One future topic of interest is a parking study.

d. **Trees** – Commissioner Goodlow

No report.

e. **Ramsey Conservation District** – Commissioner Wasley

Commissioner Wasley indicated the next meeting is next week.

f. **Ford Initiative** – Commissioner Wasley

Commissioner Wasley indicated the Committee has ended. Director Hahm pointed out that there will be Parks and Recreation Commission involvement in the future if the Ford Plant closes.

g. **Other Reports**

Director Hahm offered his many thanks to Commissioner Wasley and Commissioner Middleton for each serving nine years as Parks and Recreation Commissioners.

There will be two spots to fill this May. He encouraged everyone to spread the word and to invite individuals with parks and recreation interests to apply.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

It was motioned to adjourn by Commissioner Bishop and 2nd by Commissioner Anderson. The vote was 5 to 0 with four Commissioners absent. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.