

MAY 2011 MEETING MINUTES

May 11, 2011

Location: Conway Community Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Bishop, Jonathan Carter, Erick Goodlow, Dave Haley, Paul Middleton, Betsy Mowry, and Carrie Wasley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lynda Anderson, Andrew Trcka

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Hahm, Diana Berchem, Kathleen Anglo

GUESTS: Megan Mueller, Jennifer Peredia, Shante Stewart, Iris Smith, Stephanie Harr, Fred Krupper, and Betsy Leach.

1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTION, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Chair Carter.
- b. Commissioner Goodlow moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Middleton 2nd the motion. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two Commissioners absent.
- c. Commissioner Bishop moved to approve the March 2011 minutes. Commissioner Goodlow 2nd the motion. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two Commissioners absent.
- d. Commissioner Haley moved to approve the April 2011 minutes. Commissioner Mowry 2nd the motion. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two Commissioners absent.
- e. Chair Carter announced that Commissioner Anderson has submitted her resignation as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

2. ACTION ITEMS

a. **Resolution #11-08 Holly Totlot Parkland Diversion**

Director Hahm referenced the photos and maps provided to the Commissioners showing the park land known as the Holly Totlot and specifically a section of this park land, which abuts the edge of the residential property located at 519 Holly Avenue. He indicated that the utility pipes and meter of this residential property are located along the west side of the building and currently encroaches on park property. He also said that keeping this strip of land provides no park value and recommends the disposal of this parcel to the property owners at 519 Holly Avenue as allowed by the City Charter.

Commissioner Middleton moved to approve Resolution #11-08 and was seconded by Commissioner Bishop and Commissioner Haley. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor of support with two Commissioners absent.



b. Resolution #11-09 Indian Mounds Park Master Plan

Director Hahm introduced Kathleen Anglo, the Indian Mounds Park Master Plan Project Manager, from the Parks and Recreation Design Section. Ms. Anglo gave a brief overview of the projected development concepts for the Park. She indicated that a Design Task Force group consensus determined that leisure activities such as walking and hiking were primary uses of the park. As a result, updating the trail system is a priority. Many other ideas were mentioned as potential upgrades such as play area replacement, picnic area improvements, restroom improvements, improved signage, dog park, disc golf course, basketball court, etc. The plan also addresses the possible relocation of the Mounds Maintenance Facility located on Cypress and Suburban Avenue. The next step is to get approval from the City Council, Metropolitan Open Space Commission and the Metropolitan Parks Council.

Commissioner Wasley moved to approve Resolution #11-09 and was seconded by Commissioner Bishop. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor of support with two Commissioners absent.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Youth Commission Update and Discussion

Director Hahm introduced Megan Mueller, Youth Commission Supervisor. She gave a brief overview of the program. She indicated the program, now referred to as “Sprockets”, is a Mayor’s initiative to support and network out-of-time school kids and teens in Saint Paul. The program offers free or low cost programs and activities to help kids gain essential social, emotional and academic skills. Three Youth Commissioners (Iris Smith, Jennifer Peredia, Shante Stewart) updated the Parks and Recreation Commission on current initiatives they are focusing on: discounted transportation opportunities, such as bus passes, to be able to attend college programs and activities; and panel discussions on youth/Police relationships.

b. Finalize June Tour

Director Hahm discussed June tour details. It was decided to start the tour at 5:30 pm with a starting location to be at the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. He indicated that due to low funds, only refreshments will be provided this year. One of Como Zoo’s shuttles is scheduled for the tour. The route is being established.

c. Commission Policy Updates

Director Hahm indicated that the current Parks and Recreation Commission Policies are due for an update. It was determined that the Parks and Recreation staff will note the changes to discuss at a future Commission meeting. Once the changes have been presented, the Commission will have time to review for any additional updates, then finalized one month later.

4. DIRECTOR’S REPORTS

a. Department Monthly Highlights

Director Hahm pointed out that due to the unseasonably cool and wet spring season, many of the Department’s weather dependent revenue generating activities (golf, Como Zoo and Conservatory) have had low participation.



b. **Budget Updates**

Director Hahm indicated that the Department has been instructed to come up with budget scenarios for a 5 to 15% reduction. State budget impacts are still being determined.

c. **Annual Report Status**

Director Hahm indicated the 2010 Annual Report should be ready for review at the June meeting.

d. **2011 Special Capital Regional Watershed District (CRWD) Project Grants**

Director Hahm indicated there is grant money available from the CRWD for creative solutions for stormwater handling and quality. There are funds available in the amount of \$150,000. The Department of Parks and Recreation is interested in applying for these grants to put towards two projects: Swede Hollow Park, which has erosion challenges and Arlington Recreation Center (Payne/Maryland project) which will be looking into creative ways to improve stormwater storage for maintaining the health of trees on the property.

e. **Resolution #11-06 Carrie Wasley Recognition**

Director Hahm reflected upon Commissioner Wasley's term as a member for nine years, including serving as Chairperson. She was recognized specifically for her accomplishments and leadership on many issues including the adoption of the Parks and Recreation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan

Commissioner Bishop moved to approve Resolution #11-06 and was seconded by Commissioner Mowry. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor of support with two Commissioners absent.

f. **Resolution #11-07 Paul Middleton Recognition**

Director Hahm reflected upon Commissioner Middleton's term as a member for nine years, including serving as Vice Chairperson. He was recognized specifically for his accomplishments and leadership on many issues including his passion for youth athletics.

Commissioner Bishop moved to approve Resolution #11-07 and was seconded by Commissioner Haley. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor of support with two Commissioners absent.

6. **SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

a. **Como Regional Park Committee**

Commissioner Treka was not in attendance, but did provide written comments from the first Como Regional Park Committee he attended. The CRP committee discussed neighborhood communication strategies and signage.

b. **Blooming St. Paul**

No update provided.

c. **Transportation Advisory Board**

No update provided.



d. **Trees**

Commissioner Goodlow indicated the latest discussions have been on the Como Outdoor Woodland project, Arbor Day and Committee changes. The next meeting is May 12.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Middleton motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Wasley. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

