

## JULY 2011 MEETING MINUTES

July 13, 2011

Location: Edgcumbe Community Center

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Susan Bishop, Jonathan Carter, Dave Haley, Dan Marckel,  
John Mountain, and Betsy Mowry

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Erick Goodlow and Andrew Trcka

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mike Hahm, Diana Berchem (Parks and Recreation Administration);  
Cy Kosel, Brett Staadvold, Zack Jorgenson (Parks - Forestry Office);  
Anne Hunt (Mayor's Office)

**GUESTS:** Kelly Jameson and Lorrie Louder (Port Authority); Tom Dimond

### 1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTION, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Carter.
- b. Commissioner Haley moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Marckel seconded the motion. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor with three Commissioners absent. Commissioner Bishop arrived after this vote was taken.
- c. Commissioner Mowry moved to approve the May 2011 minutes. Commissioner Haley seconded the motion. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor with three Commissioners absent. Commissioner Bishop arrived after this vote was taken.
- d. Chair Carter introduced the two new Commissioners – John Mountain, residing in the Highland Park area, and Dan Marckel, residing in the Como Park area. Commissioner Mountain and Commissioner Marckel shared information about their backgrounds.
- e. Director Hahm announced that Carrie Wasley, former Parks and Recreation Commission Chair, has been appointed to the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission.

### 2. ACTION ITEMS

a. **Resolution #11-10 Barge Terminal 2 Parkland Exchange**

Director Hahm gave an overview explaining that three parcels of Port Authority property were to be donated to the City, but the Port Authority has asked the City to consider accepting alternative properties rather than the Barge Terminal 2 property as originally discussed. The Port Authority and the City concluded this alternate donation plan would benefit both parties. The Barge Terminal 2 parcel would remain Port Authority's property and eight parcels would be donated as a substitution. These alternate properties would increase acreage from 2.7 to 16 at four sites positioning key aspects for the Great River Passage along the Mississippi River including trail connections, views and physical access.



Director Hahm indicated that the Mayor’s Administration is in support of the substituted parcel donation and recommends approval from the Commission.

Tom Dimond, resident, addressed the Commission with concerns to this action.

**Commissioner Mowry moved to approve Resolution #11-10 and was seconded by Commissioner Mountain. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor of support with two Commissioners absent.**

3. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

a. **Tree Canopy Presentation**

Cy Kosel, Natural Resources Manager, provided background information on the Tree Canopy Assessment. He indicated the assessment is a helpful tool to help with inventory, management and setting goals for St. Paul’s tree canopy. Grant money was received from the State to produce imagery work which was done by the U of M.

Cy introduced two of his Forestry staff (Zack Jorgenson and Brett Staadvold) who presented details about the assessment.

b. **Facility Tour Review**

Director Hahm asked for feedback on the facility tour of last month. Commissioner Marckel said that the tour was valuable and what he saw was “magnificent”. Chair Carter said that it is very helpful to see for himself up close the issues that are talked about at each Commission meeting. Director Hahm indicated that if this annual tour needs to be changed in anyway he recommends discussing at the annual planning retreat in January.

Diana Berchem asked about the potential of non-commission individuals or groups joining the annual tour. Discussion concluded that these tours should be exclusive to Commissioners and Department staff as it allows for better discussion and focus.

4. **DIRECTOR’S REPORTS**

a. **Department Monthly Highlights**

Director Hahm talked about the new Highland Park Aquatic Center as a must see and the newly teen designed North End Teen Center celebrated with a ribbon cutting.

b. **Great River Passage**

Director Hahm mentioned the Great River Passage unveiling on June 16 was a success. More than 1,000 people were in attendance to hear about this exciting new project. He encouraged the Commissioners to watch the video of the celebration on the City’s website:

[www.stpaul.gov](http://www.stpaul.gov)



c. **Budget Updates**

Director Hahm indicated that until further indications from the State on the budget are known, City budget discussions are in a holding pattern. Department impacts from the State shutdown have included the following: receipts from the State Lottery have stopped; the harvesting of Lake Phalen by the DNR has stopped; and required alcohol buying permits may expire.

d. **Annual Report Status**

Copies of the 2010 Annual Reports were distributed to each Commissioner and was noted that the report is now available on the Parks and Recreation website. [www.stpaul.gov/parks](http://www.stpaul.gov/parks) (under “About Us”).

e. **Parks Commission Policies**

Director Hahm reiterated that the current Parks and Recreation Commission policies have been found to be outdated. Parks and Recreation staff will note the changes to be 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.

6. **SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

a. **Como Regional Park Committee – Commissioner Marckel**

Commissioner Marckel stated that he has attended two meetings. He indicated that there has been much discussion and brainstorming on the following topics of focus: communication with visitors; website presence; parking and transportation; building a consistent identity; and federal transportation grant funds for the study and design of signage and wayfinding in Como Park.

Commissioner Marckel indicated that a formal resolution to put out a RFP will be an agenda item for the August Commission meeting.

b. **Blooming St. Paul**

It was discussed that there is no Commission representation at the Blooming St. Paul meetings. Commissioner Mountain volunteered to attend these on behalf of the Commission.

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

No update.

d. **Trees – Commissioner Goodlow**

No update.

e. **Other Reports**

Commissioner Bishop asked about other possible committees to be involved with. Director Hahm offered a mid-year planning meeting. Commissioner Mowry felt that this was not necessary and that involvement opportunities will present themselves. Commissioner Mountain mentioned that opportunities may come out of the Public Hearing next month.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

