

## February 2014 Meeting Minutes

**February 12, 2014  
Oxford Community Center**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Susan Bishop, Erick Goodlow, Dave Haley, Dan Marckel, Betsy Mowry, Emily Shively, Andrew Trcka, Salina Vang

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** John Mountain

**STAFF PRESENT:** Michael Hahm, Dan Udem, Kathleen Anglo, Greg Dodd, Don Ganje, Mike Kimble, Alice Messer, Brad Meyer, Tom Russell

**GUESTS:** Eric Anderson, Ron Bozich, Joanna Craighead, Reuben Collins, Bill Driver, Soyini Guyton, Rick Heydinger, Seitu Jones, Kristen Kidder, Jane McClure, Bob McGillivray, Tonya Nicolie, Patricia Ohmans, Kent Peterson, Norma Roberts-Hakizimana, Susan Schmidt, Joe Wetschka, John Yust, Shirely Erstad

### 1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chair Trcka at 5:30 p.m.
- b. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Haley and seconded by Commissioner Bishop. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.
- c. Commissioner Shively moved to approve the January 2014 Meeting minutes. Commissioner Markel seconded the motion. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.
- d. Commissioner Bishop moved to approve the Golf RFP Public Hearing minutes. Commissioner Shively seconded the motion. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.

### 2. DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

#### a. Fitness – Greg Dodd

Director Hahm introduced this new addition to the Park Commission agenda and explained that each month a section within the Parks and Recreation Department will come to the Parks Commission and present about the work they are doing. Gregg Dodd, Health and Fitness Coordinator, presented on the health and fitness initiatives currently in place. These include Express Fitness, Fitness on the Go, and Fitness in the Park.

### 3. ACTION ITEMS

#### a. Resolution 14-02 Downtown Children’s Play Area Name Selection

Parks and Recreation Department Landscape Architect Kathleen Anglo, gave a brief



overview of the history of the Downtown Play Area located at the southwest corner of Fourth and Sibley Streets and explained that the “Depot Tot Lot” name was selected by the Capitol River Council. Director Hahm explained that the name meets the criteria set forth by the Parks Commission naming policy.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Markel and seconded by Commissioner Haley to approve Resolution #14-02. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with one commissioner absent.**

**b. Resolution 14-03 CenturyLink Parkland Diversion in Highland and Lexington Parkways**

Parks and Recreation Department Design and Construction Management Assistant III Mike Kimble and Ron Bozich from CenturyLink presented resolution 14-03 to the commission and explained that it is standard parkland diversion which will allow for CenturyLink to direct bore and install below ground cable conduits. Mr. Kimble said there will be no facilities located above ground when the installation is completed. Commissioner Mowry asked how long installation would take and Mr. Bozich informed the Commissioners that installation is anticipated to be completed in a day.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Bishop and seconded by Commissioner Shively to approve Resolution #14-03. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with one commissioner absent.**

**c. Resolution 14-04 McDonough Recreation Center / PHA Agreement**

Parks and Recreation Department Public Services Manager Brad Meyer presented Resolution 14-04 and explained that the agreement states that PHA will take over all maintenance and capital improvements to the building. The City will then reinvest the savings from the eliminated maintenance responsibilities into enhanced programming and staffing. Commissioner Bishop asked about community input on the programming at McDonough to which Mr. Meyer explained that the community has been very engaged since the beginning of this project and will continue to be engaged as programming is selected for McDonough.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Haley and seconded by Commissioner Markel to approve Resolution #14-04. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with one commissioner absent.**

**d. Resolution 14-05 Support of the City of Saint Paul Bikeways Plan**

Reuben Collins, City of Saint Paul Department of Public Works Sustainable Transportation Engineer / Planner presented on the City of Saint Paul’s draft Bikeways Plan. Mr. Collins briefed the commissioners on the history and the purpose of the plan.

The Department of Public Works is currently soliciting input on the plan from community members at a number of public meetings being held in February and online through Open Saint Paul.

**A motion to table Resolution 14-05 until the March meeting was made by Commissioner Bishop and seconded by Commissioner Shively. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with one commissioner absent.**

**e. Resolution 14-06 Victoria Park Master Plan Adoption**

Alice Messer, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Landscape Architect, presented resolution 14-06 to the Commissioners, also providing background on the planning process for Victoria Park. Tonya Johnson-Nicholie, co-chair of the Victoria Park Design Advisory Committee, spoke to how the group tried to draft a balanced plan that attempts to make everyone happy. Ms. Messer explained the plan has the park split into a more active park and a more natural area, the plan also has an innovative water recirculation feature which will take run off from Nova Academy and turn it into an amenity for the park. Kent Petterson, member of the Victoria Park Design Advisory Committee, offered his thanks to the Commission for the process. John Yust, member of the Victoria Park Design Advisory Committee, also commented and Bill Driver commented as well.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Mowry and seconded by Commissioner Vang to approve Resolution #14-06. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with one commissioner absent.**

**f. Resolution 14-07 Frogtown Gardens Lease Agreement**

Tom Russell, Administration, Finance, and Planning Manager, presented resolution 14-07 to the Commissioners and provided a summary of the lease details to the commissioners. Frogtown community member, Patricia Ohmans, had questions about the metrics which will be used to evaluate the performance of Frogtown Farm. Director Hahm responded that the metrics which will be used will be consistent with the metrics used to evaluate other service partner contracts. Commissioner Shively asked if the completed development plan for the park could be brought back to the commission as an informational piece. Director Hahm confirmed that the completed plan would be brought back an informational piece for the commissioners.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Shively and seconded by Commissioner Markel to approve Resolution #14-08. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with one commissioner absent.**

#### **4. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **a. Review 2014 Commission Work Plan**

Director Hahm and the Commissioners reviewed and discussed the draft 2014 Commission Work Plan. Staff will add the addition of the discussion of service partner evaluation metrics to the April and October meeting as well as adding in McDonough Recreation Center as a meeting site. The work plan will then be viewed as completed with the understanding that it is a living document.

##### **b. Review of Parks Commission Charter**

Review of the Park's Commission Charter was carried over to the March Agenda.

##### **c. Recreation Services Reorganization Plan**

Discussion of the Recreation Services Reorganization plan was carried over to the March Agenda

##### **d. Review the City's Legislative Agenda**

The City of Saint Paul's 2014 Legislative Agenda was distributed to the Commissioners.

#### **5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

##### **a. Budget Update**

Director Hahm provided an update on the progress on the Lowertown Ballpark and directed staff to provide a list of current building projects for 2014 to the Parks Commissioners for their review. Director Hahm also informed the Commissioners that significant progress is being made on the Arlington Hills Community Center and a date for a grand opening celebration is being finalized.

#### **5. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

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

No meeting was held. Commissioner Markel stated that the Committee recently added additional member from the Hamline Midway / District 10 area.

##### **b. Blooming Saint Paul – Commissioner Mountain**

No update

**c. Transportation Committee of the Planning Commission – Commissioner Trcka**

Commissioner Mowry reported that the commission discussed possible changes to handicap parking at meters in downtown and discussion of the trolley were held at the last meeting.

**d. Trees Advisory Committee – Commissioner Goodlow**

Planning dates were set during the December meeting and the committee is working on presentations that could be given to various community groups on a variety of topics. Press releases are also being developed and there is an effort to support tree sculptures on private property that are viewable by the public.

**e. Victoria Park – Commissioner Shively**

**f. Community Engagement Reports**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Haley and seconded by Commissioner Bishop. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.