



**SAINT PAUL LONG-RANGE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, June 13, 2022 at 3:30pm
Frogtown Community Center**

Meeting Minutes:

Attendance	
Members present:	Darren Tobolt, Ryan Vue, Barrett Steenrod, Abdi Ahmed, Patrick McQuillan, Ray Hess, Jack Fei, Elsa Vega Perez
Members absent:	Abshir Ali, Rudy Burgos, Natasha Jones, Jessie Luevano, Daud Mohamed, Pat McQuillan, Audel Shokohzadeh
Visitors and City staff present:	Madeline Mitchell – OFS Alice Messer – Parks Michael-jon Pease– St Paul Parks Conservancy Anne Weber – Public Works Jane McClure - Press

- 1. Call to order and introductions** – The meeting was called to order by at 3:39 p.m. by Chair Tobolt.
- 2. Approval of agenda and meeting minutes** – Vega Perez moved to approve the agenda for the June meeting. Hess seconded. Hess moved to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Vega Perez seconded. The agenda and minutes were approved.

3. Action Items

Parks

RES PH 22-138: Approval to accept funds for the Department of Parks and Recreation, as noted below, in the total amount of \$148,787, and to establish a financing and spending plan in said amount for the funds to reconstruct the play area at Wacouta Commons Park.

- Fei moved to approve the resolution. Hess seconded.
- Alice Messer introduced Michael-jon Pease from the Saint Paul Parks Conservancy. Pease explained that Wacouta Commons Park, near St. Mary’s church, is surrounded by condos and affordable housing. The playground is highly used particularly by Somali families in neighborhood and at daycare nearby. Friends of Wacouta Commons asked the Parks Conservancy to focus part of their \$5M capital campaign on improvements. There is great community support for this project. Construction will hopefully begin this fall to minimize the amount of time the park is not in



operation. There is great community support for this project as well as City support via STAR and Parkland Dedication.

- Fei asked if the resolution was to accept money. Alice confirmed there are no CIB funds in this resolution. It is accepting private funding, Neighborhood STAR, and Parkland Dedication funds for capital improvements.
- The motion passed unanimously, and the resolution was approved.

RES PH 22-139: Establishing a financing and spending plan in the Department of Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$64,885 to utilize Parkland Dedication funds for the creation of a Futsal court at Valley/Mt Airy.

- Vega Perez moved to approve the resolution. Steenrod seconded.
- Alice Messer presented the resolution, noting the partnership with the soccer federation. This would be the first futsal court at Valley/Mt Airy. Futsal is foot soccer played on paved surface. It will be a good addition for residents at Valley. The resolution utilizes parkland dedication funds to support the construction of the court. The Soccer Federation is also contributing to this project but will be hiring the work separately so it will not come through CIB.
- Steenrod asked when construction would be complete. Messer said the goal was to have it finished before the All Star game on August 11.
- The motion passed unanimously, and the resolution was approved.

RES PH 22-152: Amending the financing and spending plan in the Department of Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$229,644 to utilize Parkland Dedication funds for the Victoria Park Multi-Use Field project.

- Steenrod moved to approve the resolution. Ahmed seconded.
- Alice Messer presented the resolution to the committee, requesting use of Parkland Dedication funds for Victoria Park. The Parks department has accepted a DNR grant to construct a new restroom building to support the multi-use field space. These funds are to contribute to that project to have a bathroom, picnic shelter, and fully outfitted field space. It is part of master plan developed in 2014. The City has been using Exxon Mobil remediation funds for the space.
- Steenrod asked how much is available in Parkland Dedication every year. Messer explained that Parkland Dedication funds are calculated to add new parkland into the system with new construction. These funds have to be used within ½ mile of the new construction. Each site has a different amount. Parkland Dedication funds must be used on new amenities and not for operations or maintenance.
- Hess asked if the Park was still accessible to those. Messer noted that there was a request to build an accessible playground with private funds but they have not come through. The playground is shovel ready, as there were funds allocated for the design but there is no funding yet.
- Steenrod asked if the field is accessible. Messer confirmed the field is accessible. The accessible playground was planned for another area.



- Ahmed asked how this project will improve the existing system. Messer explained that prior to remediation this site was a petroleum tank field. The City filled the hole, planted native plants and made a trail. It is passive parkland right now. This will be a new park amenity: removing vegetation and installing artificial turf field with a public restroom and picnic area.
- Vega Perez noted concern about accessibility. Messer said there is an existing playground that meets ADA requirements across the street from the site and the department is working through the master plan to address priorities.
- Hess said he believes the park is currently accessible, but there had been plans to go above and beyond accessibility.
- Steenrod asked about the timeline. Messer said project will go out to bid in the next two months. Construction will likely begin in the fall and be completed in 2023.
- The motion passed unanimously, and the resolution was approved.

RES PH 22-161: Authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation to accept gifted funds from the Ramsey Hill Association and to amend the financing and spending plan, in the amount of \$36,314, for the Cochran Park Pool and Sculpture Restoration project.

- Fei moved to approve the resolution. Steenrod seconded.
- Messer explained that the City has received grant from historical society to restore the fountain. This resolution provides funds from the Ramsey Hill Association to meet the \$25,000 local match. It also provides \$11,000 to perform a forensic evaluation of the fountain tiles.
- Steenrod asked about the sculpture component. Messer told the committee that a bronze goose was stolen and found again in 2021. The goose will be refurbished and reinstalled. The funds in this resolution are primarily for the handcrafted tiles that line the pool.
- The motion passed unanimously, and the resolution was approved.

RES PH 22-165: Authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation to amend the financing and spending plan, in the amount of \$30,000, for the Dayton's Bluff Play Area project.

- Steenrod moved to approve the resolution. Ahmed seconded.
- Messer explained that the resolution adds \$30,000 to the Dayton's Bluff play area project that previously received CDBG funding. Bids for the project came in approximately 25% over the initial estimate.
- Steenrod asked about the overall project cost. Messer responded that the original CDBG allocation was \$415,000.
- The motion passed unanimously, and the resolution was approved.

4. 2023 Tentative Budget Recommendations

- Mitchell explained that every year the committee approves the following year's budget. In 2021, the committee recommended a budget for 2022 and a tentative budget for 2023. Now the committee



needs to formalize the recommendation for the 2023 budget. The Public Works department has requested a few small changes that should be considered for inclusion.

- Anne Weber explained that the original two-year budget was based on the 2021-2025 plan. The Public Works department has since adopted the 2022-2026 plan that includes some small changes. The MnDOT local share for the Trunk highway project has grown from \$1.42M to \$1.47M. There is additional local share added into the plan for the B Line BRT. Both of these are funded with MSA and do not require moving money from another project.
- Fei asked if there was discussion of what happens to past projects. Tobolt noted that if projects are underspent they come to the committee to close the projects and reallocate funds. If a project needs additional funding it will also return to the committee with that request.
- Steenrod moved to approve the 2023 tentative budget recommendations as amended, Hess seconded. The recommendations were approved.
- Weber explained that the City is in the middle of bidding and awarding contracts for the 2022 projects. Most projects are close to being put out for bid, on the way to being awarded, and starting construction in July.
- Fei asked about the status of the Raymond crosswalk. Weber believed it was underway and volunteered to follow up with an update.
- Note: Weber sent an email on 6/16/22 saying that the pedestrian improvements from Seal Hi-Rise to Raymond station were completed in 2021. This included the infill north on Territorial from Seal to Carleton, pedestrian ramp on the northeast quadrant, and the bumpout in the southeast quadrant of Territorial/Carleton.

5. Other business

- Mitchell reviewed timeline for the rest of the process.
- Steenrod noted he would not be able to attend the deliberation meeting and asked about the possibility to participate or vote remotely. Mitchell explained that due to the open meeting law the committee cannot have remote participation unless it is in a publicly accessible place and publicly notified ahead of time.
- Steenrod asked whether, since every project is valid, it is appropriate for the committee to make a recommendation back to the Mayor that as many of those projects be awarded an intervention, even if it isn't what was requested. He suggested the possibility of recommending all projects be awarded some percent of the request so a temporary or less expensive intervention could be deployed. Mitchell said that the committee can recommend partial funding if they desire.

6. Adjournment

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by general consent.

Committee Staff:

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