

JANUARY 2012 MEETING MINUTES

**January 12, 2012
Battle Creek Community Center**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Bishop, Jonathan Carter, Dave Haley, Dan Marckel, John Mountain, Emily Shively and Andrew Trcka

MEMBERS ABSENT: Erick Goodlow and Betsy Mowry

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Hahm, Diana Berchem, Kathy Korum, Tom Russell, Gary Korum, Jody Martinez, Susie Odegard, Gwen Peterson, Susie VanBlaircom

GUESTS: Councilmember Dan Bostrom, Representative Tim Mahoney, Anne Hunt, Mark Erickson, Tonya Nicholie

1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chair Carter at 5:30 pm.
- b. Commissioner Haley moved to approve the agenda; Commissioner Mountain seconded the motion. The vote was 6 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent. Commissioner Bishop arrived after this vote was taken.
- b. Commissioner Trcka moved to approve the December 2011 minutes; Commissioner Marckel seconded the motion. The vote was 6 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent. Commissioner Bishop arrived after this vote was taken.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Elected Officials

Anne Hunt, Environmental Policy Director, from the Mayor's Office, thanked the Commission for their services on behalf of Mayor Coleman and referenced the importance of Parks and Recreation as part of several areas of the City's policy agendas.

Dan Bostrom, Councilmember for Ward 6, spoke about the need to reinvest in the City and how the Department of Parks and Recreation's amenities, programs, projects and leadership are contributing towards that goal.

Tim Mahoney, State Representative, a Phalen Park resident, indicated he has a vested interest in Parks and Recreation and believes the more that can be created or developed, the better off the City will be.

3. STAFF REPORTS

- a. **Youth and Citywide Initiatives** – Kathy Korum, Deputy Director
Kathy briefed the Commission on the issues and goals of the Youth and Citywide Initiatives for 2012.
- b. **Administration, Finance and Planning** – Tom Russell, Manager
Tom briefed the Commission on the issues and goals of the Administration, Finance and Planning Division for 2012.
- c. **Operations** – Gary Korum, Manager
Gary briefed the Commission on the issues and goals of the Operation Division for 2012.
- d. **Special Services** – Susie Odegard, Manager
Susie briefed the Commission on the issues and goals of the Special Services Division for 2012.
- e. **Design and Construction** – Jody Martinez, Manager
Jody briefed the Commission on the issues and goals of the Design and Construction Division for 2012.
- f. **Como Park Zoo and Conservatory** – Susie VanBlaircom, presenting on behalf of Michelle Furrer, Manager
Susie briefed the Commission on the issues and goals of the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory for 2012.
- g. **Recreation Services** – Gwen Peterson, Manager
Gwen briefed the Commission on the issues and goals of the Recreation Services Division for 2012.

4. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

- a. **Review 2012 Commission Workplan**
Director Hahm and the Parks Commissioners discussed ideas for work plan items for the new year. A draft will be put together based on the discussion and sent to the Commissioners electronically for any additional input. The 2012 Work Plan will be finalized at the February meeting.
- b. **Parks Commission Meeting Date**
Director Hahm recommended looking at the possibility of changing the regular Parks Commission meeting date to avoid other organizations' routine meetings to allow for more public participation. Based on a calendar of dates, which was distributed showing other organizations' routine meeting dates, it was determined that the Parks Commission meetings will remain the 2nd Wednesday of each month starting at 6:30 pm.



5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. **Introduction of the 2012-2016 Strategic Plan**

Director Hahm indicated that the 2012-2016 Strategic Plan was not available, but would be sent out electronically in the next two weeks. The plan will be on the February meeting agenda for discussion with the March meeting slated for approving the plan.

b. **Budget Update**

No budget update was provided.

c. **Great River Passage**

Jody Martinez briefly talked about the approval process of the Great River Passage project. Director Hahm talked about the Parks Commission Public Hearing, which was scheduled by the Commission for Wednesday, February 29.

d. **Monthly Highlights**

The monthly highlights were distributed.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

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

Commissioner Marckel indicated the following projects have been the topic of discussion: redesign of play area; ski program; wayfinding proposal; and discussion of the Como Golf Course. The Committee will next be developing a presentation which will go out to organizations, district councils, etc. to hear ideas. They are also talking about a PR campaign to raise awareness.

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

Commissioner Mountain said the Blooming St. Paul Committee are assessing the program.

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

Commissioner Trcka said the following items are topics of discussion:

1. Cherokee Trail
2. Snelling Avenue Maintenance

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

No Report.



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e. **Victoria Park**

Director Hahm and Commissioner Shively updated the Commission on the Victoria Park Design Advisory Committee status. Applications seeking committee participation will be sent out following a second meeting with Fort Road Federation to area residents, district councils, etc. Deadline to apply is scheduled to be February 27. The first meeting is anticipated to be early April.

A motion to recommend staff to proceed with the process was given by Chair Carter; the motion was approved by Commissioner Marckel and seconded by Commissioner Haley. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent. When the process is finalized, the Commission will review materials electronically.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Haley motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Bishop seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.



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