

**MINUTES**

**El Rio Vista Recreation Center/ Wellstone Community Center  
179 Robie Street East  
July 8, 2015  
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Susan Bishop, Dave Haley, Dan Marckel, Betsy Mowry-Voss,  
John Mountain, Andy Trcka,

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Erick Goodlow, Emily Shively, Salina Vang

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mike Hahm, Clare Cloyd, Faith Krogstad, Tom Russell, Kathy  
Korum, Trenton Henspeter, Bianca Paz, Mike Kimble

**GUESTS:** Shirley Erstad, Tom Dimond

**1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A.

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Trcka at 6:32 p.m.
- A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Haley and seconded by Commissioner Marckel. The vote was 6 to 0 in favor with three commissioners absent.
- Commissioner Marckel moved approval of the May minutes. Commissioner Haley seconded the motion. The vote was 6 to 0 in favor with three commissioners absent.

**2. DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT**

A. **Environmental Education – Faith Krogstad**

- Faith Krogstad, Education Coordinator, discussed current and proposed environmental education opportunities that the department is offering and exploring. She noted that expansion was needed due to the growth in popularity as well as efforts to include a more diverse group of attendees.

**3. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **Systems Update: COMET & ERP- Tom Russell**

- Tom Russell, Finance, Planning & Administration Manager, updated the commission on the progress of efforts that have been put into place to better manage department finances and planning. He noted that the new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems help provide real time access to information and that the transition is continuing to prove successful.

B. **Right Track Update- Kathy Korum/ Trenton Henspeter**

- Kathy Korum, Deputy Director, and Trenton Henspeter, Right Track Manager, provided an update on the Right Track program. Right Track is currently providing 580 jobs to Saint Paul youth this summer and continuing to grow each year. Corporate partnerships and grants have allowed the program to expand, and new employees have been brought on board to help continue to facilitate and manage the program's growth.

C. **Community Engagement Discussion- Bianca Paz**

- Bianca Paz, Landscape Architect, presented an outline of the new community engagement plan being created by the department. Ideas include finding more authentic approaches to



engagement by meeting the community where they live and play. Non-traditional methods such as a pop-up meeting truck or design camps have been successful and will be integral to the improvements moving forward. The commission members indicated that they feel this could be a great tool to enhance and use as a part of a larger, collaborative approach to community outreach.

**D. Parkland Dedication Update- Mike Kimble**

- Mike Kimble, from the Design & Construction division, presented the proposed changes to the Parkland Dedication ordinance. He indicated it has not been updated since 2007 and changes were needed to ensure fees and processes are current. The Planning Commission records and related documentation was reviewed.

**E. Finalize August Facility Tour Schedule**

- Como Dockside was suggested as a launch point. Other ideas from the commissioners included:  
Pig's Eye (issues with accessibility)  
Trout Brook  
Front Skate Park  
Merriam Park  
Frogtown Farm  
Palace  
Arlington/Arkwright

Commissioners and Director Hahm indicated that drafts should continue to be circulated and discussed for the next couple weeks and then a final should be produced.

**4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Director Hahm provided a legislative update for the Commissioners. He noted that an appropriation was received for the Phalen Chinese Garden. He indicated that the J4 events and fireworks went really well. He gave a budget update and indicated that the CIB committee recommendations look really favorable for Parks and balanced geographically. In response to a question from Commissioner Mountain, he discussed Como Dockside and indicated that in terms of both services and finances, the operation to date has been very successful.

**5. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

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

- Commissioner Marckel reported that Como Dockside will report to the Como Regional Park Committee in the fall about how things are going so far.

**B. Transportation Committee of the Planning Commission – Chair Trcka**

- No update

**C. Trees – Commissioner Goodlow**

- No update

**D. Dickerman Park Committee – Commissioner Mowry-Voss**

- No update

**E. Hwy 5/Shepard Rd. Access Options Study Community Advisory Group – Commissioner Mountain**

- Commissioner Mountain reported that the group received and is working to narrow the proposals.

**F. Grand Rounds Advisory Committee – Chair Trcka**

- Chair Trcka discussed the upcoming open houses for the Grand Rounds.

G. **Community Engagement Reports**

- No update.

H. **Other Reports**

- No update.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Bishop and seconded by Commissioner Mountain. The vote was 6 to 0 with three commissioners absent.