

March 2013 Meeting Minutes

**March 13, 2013
Hillcrest Recreation Center**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Bishop, Dan Marckel, John Mountain, Betsy Mowry, Emily Shively, Erick Goodlow and Salina Vang

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dave Haley, Andrew Treka

STAFF PRESENT: Michael Hahm, D'Marie Weddington, Michelle Furrer, Brian Tourtelotte, Rachel Coyle

GUESTS: Rick Heydinger, Bill Driver, Tony Arvidson

1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Bishop at 6:33 p.m.
- b. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Goodlow and seconded by Commissioner Shively. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor with four commissioners absent.
- c. Commissioner Mountain moved to approve the February 2013 Meeting minutes. Commissioner Goodlow seconded the motion. The vote was 6 to 0 in favor with three commissioners absent.

2. ACTION ITEMS

a. Frogtown Gardens Development Agreement – Resolution 13-06

Director Hahm explained that Parks and Recreation is working side by side with Frogtown Gardens to turn 12.7 acres of land purchased by the City from The Trust for Public Land from the Wilder Foundation into a public land including a park, natural area and a 5 acre Urban Farm. Director Hahm also explained that the Parks and Recreation System Plan has identified the Frogtown area as one of the specific areas with in St. Paul in need of greenspace. Rick Heydinger, Board member for the Frogtown Farms, affirmed the efforts to work with the City at the site, and stated that an RFP will be going out in 10 days asking for creative help in developing the farm concept.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mowry and seconded by Commissioner Marckel to approve Resolution #13-06. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.

b. Soaring Eagle Ride – Resolution 13-07

Michelle Furrer, Manager of Como Zoo and Conservatory, gave a brief overview about why the Soaring Eagle ride would be a nice compliment to not only the Zoo but to Como Town as well. Commissioner Marckel inquired about any natural habitat being disturbed



by the installation of this ride and Michelle explained that only one tree will have a few new growth branches trimmed and none will be cut down. Michelle also explained that Department of Safety and Inspections did a field test and found that the noise level does not exceed their noise level limits. There was also a brief video showing how the ride would look and function was played by Tony Arvidson. Michelle stated that all up front investments would be covered by Lancer.

A motion was made by Commissioner Marckel and seconded by Commissioner Mountain to approve Resolution #13-07. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.

c. Hampden Park – Resolution 13-08

Director Hahm stated that two years ago the commission recommended a policy that allows Parks and Recreation and Public Works to work together collaboratively to treat storm water on Parks property that was not generated on Parks property. Brian Tourtelotte, a Landscape Architect for the Parks and Recreation Department, explained that this will greatly benefit the city due to being credited 25% of the storm water credits generated. This will be able to be used for future projects as well as it having monetary value. Commissioner Vang asked if future problems arise will they have to dig up the pipes and Brian explained that the pipes for maintenance will be large enough for a person to go in and inspect them but he could not reference the exact longevity of the material, but did mention that it will last well over 20+ years.

A motion was made by Commissioner Shively and seconded by Commissioner Marckel to approve Resolution #13-08. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.

3. DISCUSSION ITEM

a. EAB Management Plan Update

Rachel Coyle, an Urban Forester for the Parks and Recreation Department, gave an update on where the Forestry Department is with the struggle to fight the Emerald Ash Borer infestation. She identified 6 infested areas within the City, with St. Anthony Park being the original area the pest was first discovered in. The Forestry Department plans to plant more replacement trees in the spring as well as in the fall. Other plans include using the remaining funds granted to them by the DNR, for the removal and replacement of the infected trees in the 6 infested areas. Director Hahm stressed the fact that we will have to monitor 2013 EAB activity closely, and assess impacts to budgets for 2014 given the increase in confirmed EAB.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. Budget Update

Director Hahm explained that there is no budget update at this time.

b. Accreditation Update

The Accreditation site visit team will be on site from April 7th through April 10th. There will be some events and tours organized for them, to which the Commissioners will be extended invitations.

c. Recreation Center Repartner Request for Proposals

Director Hahm gave a brief update and said that the Requests for Proposals for both Conway and McDonough Recreation Centers are in final form and are moving along as planned. Any re-partner contracts resulting from the RFP should be expected to come before the Commission for review before summer.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

a. Como Regional Park Committee – Commissioner Marckel

Commissioner Marckel explained the Committee did not have a meeting this month.

b. Blooming Saint Paul – Commissioner Mountain

Commissioner Mountain attended a meeting March 11. Mountain said in the meeting they did some brain storming to figure out ways to pull volunteers together to ensure they are more wide spread and not all at one central location. This year marks the first year of the Blooming Saint Paul Day which will be held on May 18th.

c. Transportation Committee of the Planning Commission – Commissioner Trcka

Chair Trcka absent.

d. Trees Advisory Committee – Commissioner Goodlow

Commissioner Goodlow was not able to make his scheduled committee meeting and was not able to give an update at this time.

e. Victoria Park – Commissioner Shively

Commissioner Shively said their last meeting was January 22nd. They were able to obtain good input from the members. The next meeting is set for March 19th.

f. Community Engagement – District Councils

g. Other Reports

6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Bishop and seconded by Commissioner Mowry. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.