

September 2013 Meeting Minutes

**September 11, 2013
North Dale Recreation Center**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Michael Hahm, Dan Udem, Kathy Korum, Megan Mueller

GUESTS: David Rasmussen, Robin Hickman, Pat Lindgren, Dave Thune, Benita Warns, Peneal Tiruneh, Julie Henderson, Mary Takgbayouah, John Takgbayouah, Eveal Tiruneh, Georgetta Bostic, Luca Cherubini, Tawana Starks, ElFinesh Beshah Quinn Graham, Rita Johnson, Ann Reilly, Carla Campbell

1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chair Trcka at 6:33 p.m.
- b. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Mountain and seconded by Commissioner Bishop. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with 1 commissioner absent.
- c. Commissioner Mountain moved to approve the April 2013 Meeting minutes. Commissioner Shively seconded the motion. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with 1 commissioner absent.

2. PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:38 Chair Trcka opened the public hearing and explained that the public hearing process provides an opportunity for members of the public to be heard on general parks matters.

Councilmember Dave Thune and Robin Hickman gave public comment on the work they are doing towards establishing a memorial for Gordon Parks.

David Rasmussen gave comment on the Merriam Park ice cream social that was held in August. In order to attract a wider audience to the event, the group desires to serve wine/beer at future events and would like the Commission to be aware of this desire.

Benita Warns gave comment on the need for a banked parabolic skating track in Saint Paul. She also commented on the No Less Loss of Parkland Ordinance and the current senior programs being offered by the Department.



At 7:15 Chair Trcka asked if there were any others wishing to offer public comments, with nobody present wishing to offer additional comments, Chair Trcka closed the public hearing.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Megan Mueller began the induction of the 2013-2014 Youth Commission by providing a brief overview of the Commission. This year the Commission features 22 members from public, private, and charter schools representing all wards in the city. The focus of the Commission's work will be trafficking and exploitation of youth, youth access for public transit, and the new Green Line. The Youth Commission will also have the opportunity to regrant \$30,000 into the Saint Paul Community.

Each of the Youth Commissioners in attendance: Peneal Tiruneh, Mary Takgbajouah, Quinn Graham, Luca Cherubini, Carla Campbell, and Evelynna Rosario introduced themselves to the commissioners and were then given the opportunity to speak to the commissioners about the work the Youth Commission is undertaking and other various topics.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. Budget Update

Director Hahm provided the commission with an update on the budget. The Mayor proposed his budget at his address in August and it is anticipated the City Council vote on the budget will happen in December. \$100,000 has been proposed for management of EAB in ash trees on park land. An increase in Right of Way assessments is proposed for EAB.

b. Work Plan

A brief update on the status of 2013 Work Plan was given by Director Hahm. Updates were given on a few key items contained within the plan and he explained some of the successful projects that had been included on past Work Plan documents.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

a. Como Regional Park Advisory Committee – Commissioner Marckel

Discussion at the last committee meeting was about the possibility of adding pedicab services for events and other periods of high use. Improved electronic way finding signs which will be used to alert park goers of full parking lots have been ordered. The committee also heard comments about the golf course.

b. Blooming Saint Paul – Commissioner Mountain

No Update

c. Transportation Committee of the Planning Commission – Commissioner Trcka

No Update.

d. Trees Advisory Committee – Commissioner Goodlow

Committee discussed the injection (insecticide) vs. removal approaches for the treatment of EAB. They also worked on a press release to remind residents to water their trees during the drought and are in the process of receiving nominations for the Landmark tree program.

e. Victoria Park – Commissioner Shively

A draft of the master plan has been submitted. The public comments from previous meetings have been incorporated into the plan. A meeting composed of a walk around the park and small group work to discuss the master plan is scheduled for September 17.

f. Community Engagement – District Councils

g. Other Reports

6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Haley and seconded by Commissioner Goodlow. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.