

October 2013 Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2013

Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Salina Vang

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Furrer, Dan Udem

GUESTS: Tad Vezneer, Joe Wetschka, Bill Lynch, Todd Hurly

1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chair Trcka at 6:30 p.m.
- b. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Marckel and seconded by Commissioner Bishop. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with 1 commissioner absent.
- c. Commissioner Shively moved to approve the September 2013 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Mountain seconded the motion. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with 1 commissioner absent.

2. ACTION ITEM

a. Lowertown Ballpark Use Agreement 25 Year Lease-Resolution 13-13

Michelle Furrer introduced Resolution 13-13 to the Commission and explained that the resolution will give to the Saint Paul City Council the Parks Commission's recommendation to enter into a multi-year lease with the Saint Paul Saints at the Lowertown Ballpark. Todd Hurley, City of Saint Paul Office of Financial Services, explained that the term of the lease will match the terms of the financing the Saints are committing to and that the rents collected will be used as debt service on the bonds.

Commissioner Markel introduced amending the resolution to read as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission recommends approval of the Use Agreement which leases the Lowertown Ballpark to the Saint Paul Saints Baseball Club for up to and including 25 years.

A motion to approve the amendment to the resolution was proposed by Commissioner Goodlow and seconded by Commissioner Markel. The amendment was approved by a vote of 8-0 with 1 commissioner absent.



Commissioner Shively wished to confirm with Mr. Hurley that the amended resolution is sufficient to allow the City Council to enter into the Use Agreement with the Saint Paul Saints. Mr. Hurley confirmed that the amended resolution is sufficient.

A motion to approve amended Resolution 13-13 was made by Commissioner Shively and seconded by Commissioner Goodlow. The vote was 8-0 in favor with 1 commissioner absent.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Como Regional Park Transportation Plan and Circulation Improvement

Michelle Furrer presented an update on the Como Regional Park Transportation Plan and Circulation Improvement. According to the plan 92 percent arrive in Como Regional Park by personal transportation and bike usage is very low. The addition of Nice Ride bike sharing program to Como Regional Park is being explored and shuttle usage continues to grow. Electronic way finding signs are being added to the park to assist visitor in locating parking spots.

Commission Markel requested more details be made available on the plan so they could be shared with the Como Regional Park Advisory Council. Ms. Furrer agreed to send a refreshed version of the plan to the Como Regional Park Advisory Council for review.

Chair Trcka requested an update on the McMurray Field improvements and how they fit into the updated Transportation Plan.

Ms. Furrer agreed to provide an advisory group update which will include both updates on the transportation improvements as well as the McMurray Field improvements.

b. Parks Commission Subcommittee Assignments

Chair Trcka expressed his desire to step down from the Transportation Committee of the Planning Commission. Commissioner Mowry and Commissioner Bishop agreed to serve on the Transportation Committee of the Planning Commission.

Dan Udem was asked to compile a list of potential new subcommittee groups which represent new projects that may benefit from Parks Commissioners input.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. Budget Update

No budget update.

b. Annual Report

The 2012 Parks and Recreation Department Annual Report was distributed to the Parks Commissioners for review.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

a. Como Regional Park Advisory Committee – Commissioner Marckel

No update

b. Blooming Saint Paul – Commissioner Mountain

No Update

c. Transportation Committee of the Planning Commission – Commissioner Trecka

No Update.

d. Trees Advisory Committee – Commissioner Goodlow

No Update

e. Victoria Park – Commissioner Shively

Next meeting is October 29 from 6-8.

f. Community Engagement – District Councils

g. Other Reports

6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Bishop and seconded by Commissioner Haley. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.