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CITY OF SAINT PAUL

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Como Regional Park Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2014

Members present: Dan Marckel, Pete Bolstad, Triesta Brown, Elizabeth Stiffler, Glenn Baron, Kathy Korum

Guests: Rachel Coyle, Julian Loscalzo, Art Oglesby, Dan S and friend from Ward 5

Presentation/discussion:

- EAB Removal – North Lexington Parkway – Rachel Coyle, Urban Forester**
 Rachel provided hand-outs that outlined a structured removal of Ash trees along Lexington Parkway north of University, scheduled to begin on April of May of 2014. Rachel confirmed that this is part of the City's overall plan to remove Ash trees affected by Emerald Ash Borer. The project on North Lexington will result in the removal of approximately 35-30% of the trees along the parkway. Stumping and re-planting plans were also provided. Rachel indicated that post-cards will be sent to affected property owners and neighborhoods, a public meeting will be held prior to the beginning of the project. Rachel reports that the Ward Offices 1, 4, and 5 will be notified, along with District Councils 7, 10 and 11 – possibly 6. The removal will result in traffic adjustments along Lexington during the work.

Carry-over discussion items from September 2013

- Pedicabs in Como Regional Park during special events***
 Julian Loscalzo joined the group discussion to re-introduce the idea of a pedicab program in Como Park for the summer of 2014. After much discussion, the committee is supportive of a test pilot program of some kind during the upcoming summer that consists of offering the service as an amenity for weddings and tests out public interest in pedicabs as a fee-for service transportation during a few select events on a few select routes in the park. The option of a test pilot program will be discussed with Parks managers and the City Attorney at meetings in January and early February.
- Expanded membership on CRPAC***
 Although letters of were sent out to numerous district councils, the City of Falcon Heights, the City of Roseville and Ramsey County inviting participation on the committee, only Ramsey County responded and has declined at this time. The CRPAC wishes to send these groups the meeting minutes, introduce them to the CRPAC web page, provide them with a copy of our proposed work plan for 2014 and invite them again for the upcoming April meeting.
- Items of interest for 2014***
 The group has determined that the following items should be included on agendas for 2014:
Golf – vendor updates; City evaluation process; methods for resident/participant feedback
Black Bear Crossing – vendor/RFP updates; City evaluation process; methods for visitor feedback



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Metro Transit – perhaps not until January of 2015 – will want to hear reports about service, ridership

Use of regional parks by emerging populations

Keep the CRPAC web page current

Historic Pedestrian Bridge Project

5 and 10 year planning ideas from major park operators – Operations, Como, Lancer, Aquatics, Como Campus, Athletics, Outdoor Classroom

Report-out/program or project updates – Kathy

- ***Como Pool***

No major projects are planned here. There is some work that needs to be done on one of the holding ponds in front of the facility; Aquatics would like to make more sense of the front entry and waiting area for patrons; there may be some patching that occurs to the sidewalk between Lexington and the pool

- ***Historic Pedestrian Bridge***

The original vendor awarded the bid went out of business. New bids are out and the project is expected to be awarded by the end of January.

- ***Como Shuttle Ridership***

The shuttle service continues to capture a greater percentage of riders. More important is that parking lot signs are going in that should help reduce the on-going parade of drivers through the parking lots. There is also funding for projects related to the Como Transportation Plan in the bonding request to the legislature this session. More to come if funding is approved.

- ***Metro Transit Route 83***

This route is expected to begin operating during the summer of 2014 as the light rail begins providing service along University.

Other business:

Pete Bolstad has agreed to take minutes for the group at the April meeting.

Kathy will work with Parks staff to get the CRPAC web page up to date.

Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday, April 8, 2014