

MAY 2012 MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2012

Linwood Recreation Center

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Hahm, Diana Berchem, Brenda Ullrich, Kathy Korum, Megan Mueller

GUESTS: Karen Koeppe, Aimee Vue, Shante Stewart, John Marshall, Kathleen Corley

1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chair Carter at 6:30 pm.
- b. Commissioner Haley moved to approve the agenda; Commissioner Trcka seconded the motion. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with one commissioner absent. Commissioner Bishop arrived after this vote was taken.
- c. Commissioner Shively moved to approved the April 2012 minutes; Commissioner Mountain 2nd the motion. The vote was 8 to 0 in favor with one commissioner absent. Commissioner Bishop arrived after this vote was taken.

2. ACTION ITEMS

a. Resolution #12-04 High Bridge Dog Park Agreement

Director Hahm gave a brief staff summary of the High Bridge Dog Park Agreement with Xcel Energy. This agreement provides the opportunity to follow the Parks System Plan which indicates there is a highly desired need for dog parks in the downtown area due to an increase in residents.

This is a no cost lease and will be maintained by the Department of Parks and Recreation. The Department will also invest approximately \$40,000 for amenities. It was also agreed upon that the City will be responsible for liabilities for the Dog Park portion only.

John Marshall, Xcel Energy, briefly spoke of the great partnership this has been and appreciates the Commission's attention to this matter.

Director Hahm indicated there has been overwhelming support from the area residents. He also said there is ample parking which can be accessed off of Randolph Avenue.



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A motion was made by Commissioner Mowry and seconded by Commissioner Marckel to approve Resolution #12-04. The vote was 9 to 0 in favor with no commissioners absent.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. St. Paul Youth Commission

Meghan Mueller introduced herself as the Coordinator of the St. Paul Youth Commission. She indicated that the Youth Commission continues their focus on public transportation for teenagers and police partnerships.

Youth Commission representatives talked about some of the ways they have pursued these efforts to achieve their goals. They indicated that they have even met with City and State officials to get feedback.

They indicated that they would like to establish year-round bus cards for youth at reduced rates. They have talked to other youth and schools about taking the bus and have created a survey to collect data. They intend to report back to Metro Transit on their findings. Another goal is to partner with the Minneapolis Youth Council to make a video promoting bus usage.

Their other focus is on Police/youth relationships. They want to reduce the negative interactions that can occur between youth of St. Paul and the Police Department. Ideas of achieving this goal are to increase positive interaction by working with the Police to integrate positive dialog. Other goals are to visit recreation centers to get feedback from youth who are there and make a youth commission presentation at a future Department Director meeting. They also briefly discussed creating a video on the subject.

The Parks Commission were very impressed with the presentation and asked if they could view the video, which Meghan gladly agreed to.

b. Sprockets

Deputy Director Kathy Korum, updated the Commission on the Sprockets Program. She indicated that since its launch, Sprockets has raised \$1,427,000. \$765,000 of this is a three year grant from the Wallace Foundation. Sprockets was selected by the Wallace Foundation as one of nine communities across the country to participate in their Next Generation OST Systems Building Initiative. Sprockets has an additional \$770,000 in pending requests from the Kellogg Foundation.



A citywide data system was launched which is managed by Wilder Research using the Cityspan Technologies software. Parks and Recreation staff Rec Check sites contribute data to the database. This data is used for evaluations about young people's school outcomes and participation in Out of School Time. Other organizations will also be entering data starting this summer contributing to overall evaluations.

Kathy mentioned that Sprockets has developed a parent guide to help them identify quality youth programs for their children. She also said that an improved website was developed. The website hosts the Youth Job Corp job search and an improved youth program search tool for parents and youth. The website is:
www.SprocketsSaintPaul.org.

c. Como Pool Networking Event

Details were discussed regarding this year's Networking Event which is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13 at the new Como Pool. A list of individuals and groups who will be invited was shared with the Commission. Director Hahm asked the Commission to let us know if there are any additional invitations they would like to see included.

d. August Facility Schedule

Director Hahm asked the Commissioners for their requests on the sites to visit for their annual Citywide facility tour. Requests were: start and end at Phalen Park; see the Stone Arch Bridge; East Side Heritage Park, Payne/Maryland site and any other east side facility/site; High Bridge Dog Park; Lilydale; and the Teen Center/Rice Street Recreation Center.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. Budget Update

Director Hahm indicated the Department has started planning around the annual budget for 2013. More information will be provided this summer.

b. Annual Report

The Department's annual report is still in draft form but is very close to being printed. A draft of the annual report was handed out. Director Hahm asked the Commissioners to take the time to review it and if they have any questions or would like any changes done to let him know prior to it being published.

c. Monthly Highlights

Director Hahm indicated that the first video blog will be filmed in a few days. The blog will be relevant to employees as well as shared with all of the Commissioners.



He mentioned that this year's Park Cleanup was a great success. There were many volunteers and the weather was fabulous.

He also said there are a number of grand opening events coming up: Oxford Community Center/Jimmy Lee fields; High Bridge Dog Park; Phalen Stone Arch Bridge and the new Como Pool.

d. Hamline Park Building/RFP

Director Hahm said the Department is seeking a tenant for the Hamline Park Building located at 1564 Lafond Avenue as the Department considers the building a non-functioning facility. There was consideration to raze the building but the community would prefer that it not be taken down. Two RFPs have been received with one not being accepted. The Department's plans are to work with the community and District 11 Community Council to establish a process and determine a use.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

a. Como Regional Park Committee – Commissioner Marckel

Commissioner Marckel indicated that the Committee did not meet this month.

He reminded the other Commission members about the survey from the vendor chosen for the signage and wayfinding for Como Park and encouraged they take a look at it and send him their comments.

He also indicated he is impressed with the solar charging stations that were installed in Como Park.

b. Blooming St. Paul – Commissioner Mountain

Commissioner Mountain said there was not much for updates but indicated that plantings will be starting next month.

c. Transportation Committee of the Planning Commission – Commissioner Trcka

No report.

d. Tree Advisory Committee – Commissioner Goodlow

No report.

e. Victoria Park – Commissioner Shively

More information will be coming after the Community sees the staff report.



f. Other Reports

The Commissioners indicated they met with elected officials for their annual communication meeting. All officials indicated their support of the Department's activities as well as offered encouragement on other issues.

6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Marckel and seconded by Commissioner Bishop. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

