

July 2012 MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 2012
City Passport/Downtown

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, Brenda Ullrich, Linda Flynn, and Mary Livingston

GUESTS: None

1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chair Carter at 6:29 pm.
- b. A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent. Commissioners Goodlow and Mowry arrived after this vote was taken.
- c. Commissioner Bishop moved to approve the May 2012 minutes; Commissioner Mountain seconded the motion. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent. Commissioners Goodlow and Mowry arrived after this vote was taken.
- d. Draft minutes from the Special Meeting June 20, 2012, may be circulated publically in advance of action to approve at the Parks & Recreation September meeting.

2. ACTION ITEMS

a. Resolution #12-06 Lowertown Ballpark

Director Hahm gave a brief staff summary of the Lowertown Ballpark Property Acquisition Resolution. The resolution proposes to replace the existing 30 year-old Midway Stadium with a new 7,000 seat ballpark to be built on a vacant and polluted industrial site in the Lowertown neighborhood of downtown Saint Paul.

The action establishes the intent to follow through with the Port Authority to swap the land for the Lowertown Ballpark for the Midway Stadium resulting in no net loss of park land.

Commissioner Mountain requested confirmation the \$27 million DEED grant is part of the \$54 million total project cost. Director Hahm confirmed.

Commissioner Bishop wanted clarification of language regarding the three year time frame involved. Director Hahm explained that if a ballpark is not built on the Lowertown property, the City, not the Parks & Recreation Department, would be the owner of the land in Lowertown for some future use to be determined at that point. Either way the City would own the land.

Chair Carter inquired as to whether this trade is an equal acreage for acreage trade. Director Hahm explained there are actually four parcels in Lowertown and the value and acreage is evaluated as a fair trade, thus the intent to complete the swap.

Commissioner Mountain asked about the future vision for the site. Director Hahm explained there is really only one way the basic orientation and layout of the ballpark itself will fit on the site due to the topography of the land itself and the layout of the streets, etc.

Commissioner Mowry inquired as to the continued existence of the dog park. Director Hahm confirmed it will be affected with some form of it remaining with the boundaries altered.

Director Hahm reported and circulated an email from Andy Singer.

Staff recommends the resolution.

A motion was made by Commissioner Haley and seconded by Commissioner Bishop to approve Resolution #12-06. The vote was 9 to 0 in favor with no commissioners absent.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Senior Program

Director Hahm introduced Mary Livingston and Linda Flynn here to speak about the Senior Program. Mary Livingston went on to speak about the history and background of the Senior Program as well as the current offerings. She showed us the current 50+ Program guide which details all of the current offerings, including dates, times, and the associated fees. She also explained they are currently making a strong effort to learn what the senior, 50+ adults, in our community really want through the use of surveys.

Linda Flynn then talked about the challenges the programs is facing in terms of money and self-sufficiency as well as things such as physical mobility, cognitive, and transportation issues.



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The Parks & Recreation Commissioners expressed interest in the program and brought forward a number of partnering ideas that might be available with organizations the City isn't already partnering with.

b. Como Regional Park Advisory Committee

Commissioner Marckel spoke about the Como Regional Park Advisory Committee. He spoke about the diversity of the membership of the committee, i.e., City staff, Regional Parks Perspective, District 6 and District 10, as well as Men's and Women's Golf groups. The diversity of the backgrounds of the committee members is extremely helpful to discussions and the work of the committee.

He also talked about some of the regular business the committee has been dealing with lately such as the naming of the Como Concessions Area, and the special projects they've been working on, e.g., Way finding and signage.

Commissioner Shively commented that it really helps to hear about the logistics of the Como Regional Park Advisory Committee for the potential of applying it to other regional parks.

c. August Facility Tour Schedule

Director Hahm and the Parks & Recreation Commissioners reviewed the schedule for the August Facility Tour.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. Budget Update

Director Hahm gave a short update on the status of the 2013 budget. Mayor Coleman's proposed budget is scheduled to be proposed in mid-August.

b. Video Update

Director Hahm gave a short update on the new video update format.

5. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

a. Como Regional Park Committee – Commissioner Marckel

See update above, item b in discussion items.

b. Blooming Saint Paul – Commissioner Mountain

Next meeting is Monday, July 16, 2012.

c. Transportation Committee of the Planning Commission – Commissioner Treka

The Lilydale trail is scheduled for committee review on July 16, 2012.

d. Trees Advisory Committee – Commissioner Goodlow

No meeting scheduled for this month.

e. Victoria Park – Commissioner Shively

Meeting scheduled for July 13, 2012.

f. Other Reports

Commissioner Bishop commented on the difficulty in navigating the City's website to find specific information such as what parks have amenities for toddlers. Director Hahm explained the City is tied to CivicPlus for website development and this is a known challenge.

Commissioner Bishop also brought up the fee structure at our aquatics facilities, specifically, the deck fee a parent accompanying a child is required to pay in addition to the fee for getting the child in.

6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Marckel and seconded by Commissioner Bishop. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.



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