

MINUTES
Phalen Recreation Center
1000 Wheelock Pkwy
April 8, 2015
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Betsy Mowry-Voss

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Hahm, Michelle Furrer, Cy Kosel, Joan Phillips

GUESTS: John Marshall, Conrad Miller, Tony Wendland, Todd Koshenina

1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. March 2015 Minutes

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Trcka at 6:30 p.m.
- A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Haley and seconded by Commissioner Bishop. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.
- Commissioner Shively moved approval of the March minutes. Commissioner Mountain moved that the minutes be amended to the correct date and seconded the motion. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.

2. ACTION ITEMS

A. Res 15-06, Xcel Energy Parkland Diversion for Gas Pipe Building in Highland Park

- Director Hahm indicated that the parkland diversion, located at Lexington, West 7th St., and Montreal was part of a larger pipeline replacement project for Xcel energy that spanned across the City of Saint Paul. After community discussion, the location in question was agreed upon as best suited for the project by the interested parties. Staff recommended approval of the resolution. John Marshall, Conrad Miller, and Tony Wendland of Xcel Energy answered questions the Commissioners had about the scope of the project, impact on the parkland, and features of the project as they related to neighborhood and parkland aesthetic. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Bishop and seconded by Commissioner Marckel. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.

3. DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT

A. Marjorie McNeely Conservatory's Centennial Celebration – Michelle Furrer

- Michelle Furrer, Manager – Como Park Zoo & Conservatory, presented the Commission with information on upcoming events planned for June 19-21 at the



Marjorie McNeeley Conservatory to celebrate the centennial.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Director Hahm reported that he had attended the City Parks Alliance Greater & Greener Conference in San Francisco, as part of a larger Saint Paul delegation, and had accepted the torch for the 2017 conference, scheduled to be held in Saint Paul. Parks staff continues to ready the area around the Lowertown Ballpark in preparation for the opening day on May 21st. Recreation Services continues to move forward with the reorganization. The related hiring process will net 20 additional staff, increasing professional level employees across the system by twenty percent.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Como Town Ride Replacement Overview – Michelle Furrer

- Todd Koshenina from Lancer presented informational overview to the Commissioners on the new Tiger Trax Roller Coaster that will replace the decommissioned Screaming Dragon Roller Coaster at Como Town.

B. Trees Advisory Panel Update – Cy Kosel

- Cy Kosel, Natural Resources Manager, presented information on the Tree Advisory Panel including a list of issues, topics, accomplishments, and media for 2014.

C. Review of Joint Meeting with Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Commission on March 11, 2015

- A review of agenda items from the joint meeting will be added to the Commission's work plan for the October or November meeting.

6. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS

A. Como Regional Park Committee – Commissioner Marckel

- Commissioner Marckel reported that they are waiting for information on the redesign of McMurray Field and anticipates community discussion about the Lakeside Pavilion as renovations are completed and activities are announced.

B. Transportation Committee of the Planning Commission – Commissioner Treka

- No update.

C. Trees Advisory Committee – Commissioner Goodlow

- Commissioner Goodlow declined an update as information had been presented about the committee during an earlier agenda item.

D. Dickerman Park Committee – Commissioner Mowry-Voss

- No update.

E. Rice Park Revitalization – Commissioner Haley

- Commissioner Haley reported that a concept plan had been finalized that adjusted the entrance to the park and improved sight lines. An open house was held presenting the final plan to the public. CIB funds would be sought for funding. The work of the committee had concluded.

F. Hwy 5/ Shepard Rd. Access Options Study Community Advisory Group – Commissioner Mountain

- Commissioner Mountain reported that he had attended the first meeting. The committee will look at options to create a safe passage as it aligns with future development in the area, seek community input, and be thoughtful about any potential reroutes despite any funding at this time.

G. Community Engagement Reports

- No update.

H. Other Reports

- No update.

7. ADJOURNMENT

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Haley and seconded by Commissioner Marckel. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.