

**May 2013 Meeting Minutes**

**May 8, 2013**

**Merriam Park Recreation Center**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Susan Bishop, Dave Haley, Dan Markel, John Mountain, Emily Shively, Andrew Trcka, Salina Vang

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Erick Goodlow, Betsy Mowry

**STAFF PRESENT:** Michael Hahm, Kathy Korum, Dan Udem, Don Varney,

**GUESTS:** Genna Maxwell with Youth Commission

**a. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chair Trcka at 6:34 p.m.
- b. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Mountain and seconded by Commissioner Bishop. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor with four commissioners absent.
- c. Commissioner Shively moved to approve the April 2013 Meeting minutes. Commissioner Marckel seconded the motion. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor with four commissioners absent.

**2. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Commendation for Peggy Lynch – Resolution 13-11**

Director Hahm provided background information on the resolution stating that Peggy Lynch is the retiring Director of the Friends of the Parks and Trails. The Saint Paul City Council has passed a resolution honoring Peggy. This resolution allows for the Parks Commission to formally honor Peggy for all her work throughout her career. There will be a special retirement event put on by the Friends of the Parks and Trails in August where all the resolutions will be formally presented to Peggy.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Bishop and seconded by Commissioner Markel to approve Resolution 13-11. The vote was 6 to 0 in favor with three commissioners absent.**

**b. Harriet Island to South Saint Paul Regional Trail Master Plan – Resolution 13-12**

Parks and Recreation Department Landscape Architect, Don Varney presented information on the Harriet Island to South Saint Paul Regional Trail Master Plan. The trail will begin at Harriet Island and will create an off-street bicycle commuter trail connection between Saint Paul and South Saint Paul. Mr. Varney explained that the trail is able to be constructed using existing public land inventories and there are no land



acquisitions required to complete the trail. This proposed trail also is consistent with the trail connections prioritized as per the Great River Passage Plan and planning process. The Transportation Committee of the Planning Commission has also reviewed and provided input.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Markel and seconded by Commissioner Haley to approve Resolution 13-12. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.**

### **3. DISCUSSION ITEM**

#### **a. Finalize June Facility Tour Schedule**

Adjustments to the annual Facility Tour route were discussed. It was decided that the start and end of the tour would be moved to Harriet Island. The Highbridge Dog Park would also be moved up in the schedule to a more logical position. The Ford Plant and EAB sites in Saint Anthony Park were also added to the tour. Hillcrest/Highland and Palace Rink/Rec were also suggested additions which will allow the commissioners opportunities to view current programming.

#### **b. Como Regional Park Advisory Committee Update**

Deputy Director Korum gave an update on the Como Regional Park Committee. The group started two years ago as a pilot project and has accomplished a lot in those two years. The committee has been involved with the community design review of the new Como play area, the Como pedestrian bridge, and performed a formal evaluation of the Putt'r There program and made recommendations based on that evaluation.

The group wishes to continue to meet quarterly to carry on the work that was started. Based on the desire of the committee to continue meeting the following motion was presented by Commissioner Markel:

*The Saint Paul Parks Commission recognizes and supports the Como Regional Park Advisory Committee's continuance, expected to meet quarterly, through May 2014.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Markel and seconded by Commissioner Haley. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.**

**c. Youth Commission Update**

Genna Maxwell from the Saint Paul Youth Commission provided the Commissioners with an update on the three Youth Commission subcommittees. The Metro Transit subcommittee is undertaking a study on youth usage of metro transit offerings. The group is conducting outreach to students and parents in an effort to increase bus ridership among youth. They are also exploring the option of creating a Youth Hub Card which would allow youth the opportunity to ride the bus to school, libraries, and to Parks/Recreation Centers.

The Bike Accessibility subcommittee submitted a grant application to the Forever Saint Paul \$1 million idea contest. The committee's idea focused on increasing access to bike tools and bike racks at places frequented by youth.

The Youth Experiencing Homelessness subcommittee sponsored an open mic night at Hancock Recreation Center where over 300 winter wear items were collected. The group has also toured homeless shelters, collected over 500 toiletry items, and is active in advocating Youth Homelessness issues at the State Capital.

Genna will provide the commission with copies of the newsletter and a copy of the survey memo.

**4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**a. Budget Update**

Director Hahm updated the commission on the 2014 budget process. Mayor Coleman has directed the Department to create two budgets. One with a 2% reduction and one 0% option, Director Hahm explained a 2% reduction translates to approximately \$500,000 of potential reductions. The Mayor is also looking for innovative solutions to the budget, areas where initial investment can lead to long term savings.

**b. Recreation Center Repartner Request for Proposals**

Director Hahm commented that the Request for Repartner Proposals closed at 4:30 pm on May 8 and that a list of those who submitted a proposal would be available as soon as May 9. This item may require an action prior to the next business meeting in July and possible community participation. If the action is needed on this item, Commissioners will be notified.

## **5. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

### **a. Como Regional Park Advisory Committee – Commissioner Marckel**

Update addressed during Deputy Director Korum's update.

### **b. Blooming Saint Paul – Commissioner Mountain**

Commissioner Mountain stated the committee has not met since the last Commission meeting. He confirmed the date of Blooming Saint Paul as May 18.

### **c. Transportation Committee of the Planning Commission – Commissioner Trecka**

Said he was excited about what was presented at the Trout Brook trail update. Also recommended the Commissioners update themselves on MnDOT's Cayuga project through the use of Google.

### **d. Trees Advisory Committee – Commissioner Goodlow**

Commissioner Goodlow was absent.

### **e. Victoria Park – Commissioner Shively**

Commissioner Shively said concept plan display boards containing information regarding Victoria Park were recently up at the Fort Road meeting. Alice Messer from the Department of Parks and Recreation received feedback on the ideas presented which she is compiling. They are currently looking for broader feedback to help narrow down the three concept plans to one.

### **f. Community Engagement – District Councils**

The citywide cleanup alternative #Cleanupstpaul was discussed. Media response to the program was good, while participation has been hard to fully quantify. Many more people have participated in the cleanup then have posted pictures to the Department's Facebook page.

### **g. Other Reports**

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Haley and seconded by Commissioner Bishop. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.