

MINUTES
Wednesday, October 14, 2015
West Minnehaha Recreation Center
685 W Minnehaha Avenue
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Erick Goodlow, Dave Haley, Dan Marckel, Betsy Mowry-Voss, Emily Shively, Andy Trcka, Salina Vang

MEMBERS ABSENT: Susan Bishop, Dave Haley

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Hahm, Joan Phillips, Gary Korum

GUESTS: Shirley Erstad, Friends of the Parks & Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County

1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Trcka at 6:33 p.m.
- A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Shively and seconded by Commissioner Marckel. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor with four commissioners absent.
- Commissioner Shively moved approval of the September minutes. Commissioner Marckel seconded the motion. The vote was 5 to 0 in favor with four commissioners absent.

2. DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT – Winter Maintenance, Operations

- Gary Korum, Operations Manager, presented information on winter maintenance operations. Day one, two and three priorities for snow removal services across the City were discussed. Director Hahm highlighted the ability of the Operations division to collaborate as needed with other City of Saint Paul departments to ensure quality work in a timely fashion.
- Commissioners Mountain and Vang joined the meeting.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Update on Ramsey County Joint Meeting Agenda Items of Shared Interest Discussed at the March 11, 2015 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting: Trail on Lexington Pkwy, Phalen & Keller Regional Parks, Highland Arena, Pig’s Eye Lake
- Director Hahm reported that he had touched base with Ramsey County Parks & Recreation Director Jon Oyanagi on the items of mutual interest as a follow up to the March 2015 meeting. Director Hahm reported that Tuj Lub courts should be online and functioning within the next year for both parks systems. The City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County have also codified an access agreement for repairs to the sewer line at the Highland Arena and the project will move forward. Directors Hahm and Oyanagi were looking to gauge interest on the continuance of joint meetings in the future.
 - Feedback from the Commissioners was that joint meetings could be useful if a specific topic or focus on a single policy issue was identified beforehand. Another suggestion was to focus on regional parks prior to the start of the legislative session. Director Hahm will reach out to Metropolitan Parks and Open Spaces Commission colleagues to gauge their interest.



4. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Hahm reported that the department had begun preparations for the legislative process. Bonding tours with the Governor's office staff and the House had been conducted at Como, Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and the Great River Passage Environmental Learning Center. The system had also finalized the annual transition in rec programming that coincides with the start of the school year.

A. **Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Rules**

- Director Hahm provided an informational update on the rulemaking process. The next action for future consideration will come to the Parks and Recreation Commission after publication of the rules. A resolution will not be considered at this time as comments are reflected in the City of Saint Paul review process that the Planning Commission participated in.
- Director Hahm asked that Joan Phillips provide the Commissioners with the Parks & Recreation staff testimony provided to the Planning Commission and information on where the public can access the comments that the DNR has received from municipalities and interest groups during the rulemaking process.
- Director Hahm encouraged the Commissioners to funnel any comments or questions on the rulemaking process through official communication with Parks and Recreation staff to become a part of the public record.

B. **Parks & Recreation Rules and Regulations**

- Director Hahm stated that staff had taken into consideration the feedback provided by the Commission at the September meeting on the right of way and incorporated as minor edits to the rules and regulation. Feedback had been sought from the City Council offices and general public. Nothing material had changed in the interim and the rules and regulations will go before City Council for consideration.
- Commissioner Mowry-Voss suggested that non-domesticated animals, along with dogs, be considered under Chapter 6 in the future.
- Commissioner Vang suggested that regulations regarding the use of the tuj lub courts be posted to address safety concerns.

5. **SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

A. **Como Regional Park Committee – Commissioner Marckel**

- Commissioner Marckel reported that the process for the Como Transportation Improvements is underway with the consultants. The group has had one meeting; with two additional community meetings planned. Commissioner Marckel also reported that Dockside is due to report back to the community on their contract this fall and he is waiting to hear what the process will look like.

B. **Transportation Committee of the Planning Commission – Chair Trcka**

- Chair Trcka reported that he would be monitoring any impact by the opening of Hwy 52 and the proposal to add parking meters on Grand Avenue and the impact on transportation.

C. **Trees – Commissioner Goodlow**

- No update per Commissioner Goodlow.

D. **Dickerman Park Committee – Commissioner Mowry-Voss**

- Per Commissioner Mowry-Voss the Dickerman Park Committee Task Force report can be struck from future agendas as the project has moved from development to implementation of Phase I construction.

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

- Commissioner Mountain reported that the Advisory Group remains in a holding pattern while

Planning & Economic Development staff and the consultants work on details.

F. **Grand Rounds Advisory Committee – Chair Trcka**

- Chair Trcka reported that the Committee remains in a holding pattern while they wait for plans to be released in November where they will weigh in on preference for design. There has been no meeting in the interim.

G. **Community Engagement Reports**

- No update.

H. **Other Reports**

- Commissioner Marckel reported that he had been contacted by a community member who was concerned about lack of an AED device at the Como Golf Course. Commissioner Marckel would like to encourage the department to consider a policy requiring AED's at all facilities. Director Hahm agreed to report back to the Commission at the next meeting with information on location of AED's at Parks & Rec facilities and what the funding gap would look like in that scenario.
- Commissioner Vang invited the Commissioners to attend the Hmong New Year celebration scheduled to be held at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds October 24-25th.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Marckel and seconded by Commissioner Goodlow. The vote was 7 to 0 with two commissioners absent. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.