

**Minutes**  
**El Rio Vista Community Center**  
**179 Robie St. E.**  
**Thursday, August 16, 2018**  
**6:30 - 8:00 p.m. – meeting**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Bishop, Melvin Robinson, Andy Trcka, Dan Marckel, Rafael Espinosa, John Mountain**

**MEMBERS ABSENT: Clara Haycraft, Sara Chamberlain**

**STAFF PRESENT: Mike Hahm, Cherisse Turner, Alice Messer, Paul Sawyer, Michelle Furrer, Jessie Loftus**

**GUESTS: Deb Montgomery**

**1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. The meeting was called to order by Chair Robinson at 6:35.
- B. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Marckel and seconded by Commissioner Mountain.
- C. Motion to accept May 10<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup> minutes by Commissioner Trcka and accepted by Commissioner Marckel.
- D. Commissioner Espinosa added as present to May minutes, and added as absent to July minutes.
- E. Approved as amended.
- F. Motion to close by Commissioner Espinosa, seconded by Commissioner Marckel.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

- A. Move to close public comment period by Commissioner Marckel, seconded by Commissioner Trcka.

**3. SERVICE UPDATE WITH EQUITY FOCUS**

- A. Como Park Zoo & Conservatory-Michelle Furrer/Jessie Loftus
- B. Jessie reviewed new programs offered by Como for Seniors, Sensory program and Story Team and American sign language
- C. Michelle shared how her team is committed to equity in recruitment, gender equity and reviewing all processes with an equity lense.

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Res 18-13 Phalen Regional Park Garden Naming – Alice Messer
  - i. Alice Messer proposed 4 new names. Commissioner Bishop moves to name park as recommended. Commissioner Mountain seconds.
  - ii. The vote is 6 to 0 in favor of renaming with 2 Commissioners absent.
- B. Res 18-14 Parkland Diversion (MnDOT @ 270 Lexington Pkwy N) – Paul Sawyer
  - i. Since in public ownership for park services, MnDot decided to improve curb; updating entire intersection including audible.
  - ii. Deb Montgomery shared history of Rondo neighborhood.
  - iii. Motion to approve by Chair Robinson, seconded by Commissioner Marckel.
  - iv. The vote is 5 to 0 in favor of parkland diversion with 2 Commissioners absent and recusal of Commissioner Trcka due to employment with MnDot.



- C. Res 18-15 Como Zoo & Conservatory Concessions
  - i. Michelle discussed Lancer agreement exclusive rights for concessions, including healthy options, sustainably sourced food options. Contract can be re-negotiated.
  - ii. Motion to accept by Chair Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Marckel.
  - iii. The vote is 6 to 0 in favor of Lancer agreement with 2 Commissioners absent.
- D. Res 18-16 Lease Agreement Renewal – MN Jewish Theater Company
  - i. Andy Rodriguez presents renewal lease agreement.
  - ii. Motion to approve by Commissioner Espinosa, seconded by Commissioner Bishop.
  - iii. The vote is 6 to 0 in favor of lease agreement renewal with 2 Commissioners absent.

**5. DISCUSSION ITEMS.**

- A. Phalen Transportation – Bryan Murphy
  - i. Surveyed residents and collected feedback for improvements
  - ii. Discussed transportation improvements, strategies and challenges.
  - iii. Adding ¼ acre of greenspace back to park.
  - iv. Will work with dept to improvement safety and paved areas of bike path

**6. DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

- A. Pedro Update
  - i. Mike Hahm provided overview of timeline.
  - ii. Decided to have extended meeting when action items are available
  - iii. Commissioner Mountain requests sufficient time to review documentation prior to meeting.
- B. Bikes/Scooters
  - i. Working with vendor to prevent and resolve bike parking issues via geo blocking.
  - ii. Adding indicator to app to not use scooters on trails and bike paths.
- C. Budget
  - i. 2 million increase to budget in Parks & Rec, 300k in additional programs.

**7. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

- A. Como Regional Park Committee – Commissioner Marckel
- B. Transportation Committee – Andy Trcka
- C. Community Engagement Reports
- D. Other Reports

**1. ADJOURNMENT – 8:00 p.m.**

- A. Motion to adjourn meeting by Chair Robinson at 8:10, seconded by Commissioner Bishop.

**NEXT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Next Meeting – Thursday, September 13, 2018 – Hayden Heights Recreation Center**

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