

**CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

**August 26, 2020
6:30 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lloyd Grachek called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Lloyd Grachek, Chair
Laura Greenlee-Karp, Vice Chair
Larry Amsden
Tim Cole
Heather Haas
Ingrid Koller
(absent)
Sue Springborn
Nancy Thorsen
Sarah Zahradka

Ex-Officio: Open

Council Liaison: Candy Petersen

Staff: Jill Officer
Keith Stachowski

III. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Commissioner Haas, seconded by Commissioner Zahradka with all present voting aye, motion carried to adopt the agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve the July 22nd, 2020 regular meeting minutes

On motion by Commissioner Thorsen, seconded by Commissioner Springborn with all present voting aye, motion carried to approve the July 22nd meeting minutes.

V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Note: This is a courtesy extended to persons wishing to address the Commission concerning issues that are not on the agenda. This discussion will be limited to 15 minutes.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. McKnight Tennis Court Resurfacing Discussion-** Stachowski researched doing pickle ball/tennis courts at McKnight. Haise would need to be widened to accommodate pickle ball at a cost of about \$40,000. A reliable contractor recommended to remove the center courts at McKnight and look at the courts closest to McKnight for resurfacing. The current size could fit 4 tennis courts or 8 pickle ball, there are some reservations about the location. Commissioner Zahradka questioned if there was a way to make McKnight more of a destination and make them more visible. Also the noise during game nights was brought up. It was also pointed out that the more courts there are, the more equipment costs there are. Commissioner GK questions the cost to do both –it would be about \$100,000. Commissioner Grachek and Council Member Peterson would like to keep looking at doing Haise.
- B. Summer Concert/Star Watch update-** Star Watch rescheduled to Oct 12th outside. This would be done at McKnight baseball field with help from Park and Rec with wiping things down, handing out glasses. Limit of 40, reservation is needed, residents get first registration with limit of 4 per family. Suggested non- refundable donation of \$3 for cost of glasses. No food or beverages.
- C. Trick or Treat Trail-** Cancel, not able to accommodate.
- D. Park Welcome signs-** Stachowski recommends a local company, laminate plastic signs –easy to clean and maintain. We have 11 park signs, 14 are needed. Size is 96x48 max. Commissioner Zahradka suggests to start with some of the parks this year. Six parks recommended to start with were Haise, Colby, Polar, Dorothy, Northwood and Silver Lake.

Commissioner Zahradka motions to request up to \$32,000 over the next two years to buy and install park name signs; to be spent as \$16,000 each year. Commissioner Cole seconds the motion, all present voting aye. Motion carries to request \$32,000 for park name signs.

- E. Playground rule sign-** Stachowski presents information about warning signs being placed at the entrance of the parks. Signage includes age recommendations, heat warnings, parental supervision, etc. Discussion included how pricey the signage is, the stickers that are currently there get scratched off or worn off, are those making the signs responsible? – everyone involved is responsible. It was suggested to talk to the attorney on what is necessary.
- F. Social Media Discussion-** The previous motion to have the city’s communication consultant as the web administrator was brought into question as the wording was seen as adding the consultant but the result was the removal of the PRC commissioners. Commissioner Grachek rereads the motion:

“Commissioner Haas motions to add the city’s communication consultant as the web administrator for the North St Paul Parks and Rec Facebook web page to monitor compliance. Commissioner Thorsen seconds motion, all present voting aye. Motion passes to add the city’s communication consultant as an administrator.”

The two options stated by Stachowski are to remove logo from website and keep the admins as is or let the city run the page. Commissioner Greenlee-Karp is concerned that the committee cannot control how the city is posting items and would like to have the members added as analysts so they can see what changes are being made. Commissioner Grachek summarizes to have the PRC members monitor the page but not administer and there should be a clear process on how to approve and post. Commissioners Haas and Zahradka would be added as analysts.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

A. Budget Update-

B. Silver Lake Weed Treatment Update- Weed treatment at Silver Lake done.

C. Outdoor Park Trail Exercise Equipment- As a committee they would prefer it all be placed together. The sub-committee has discussed wanting to ask the public what they would prefer but also that they go to council first. The committee had a zoom meeting with an equipment company to see what is trending. They walked Casey to see if there is a better location: lighting, ADA, vandalism prevention- area by old tennis courts and merry go round may be better than the area where the old exercise equipment is and the old equipment is used so maybe replace with something new. Commissioner Zahradka took comments from Janie's playground Facebook page and people would prefer multi-use pieces, ADA is preferred, close to parking and combo pieces of equipment. Suggested to use park dedication fund for the project. Other items discussed: realize the need for more improvements on the south side but this is the location where the most usage would take place, would like to have quotes and have the vendor do the footwork. It was recommended to present the idea to the Council now.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Zahradka, seconded by Commissioner Haas with all present voting aye, motion carried to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Next meeting: September 23rd, 2020 via zoom