

**CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 2020
6:30 PM**

The September 23rd, 2020 meeting was held via Zoom and complied with all requirements of Minnesota State Statute 13D.021.

Due to the Governor's Emergency Declaration, the Mayor has determined that in-person meetings during this pandemic are not practical or safe. All meetings of the City Council and other City-governed boards and commissions will be held by telephone or other electronic means until further notice. (Minn. Stat. 13D.021)

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
Sue Springborn
Nancy Thorsen
Sarah Zahradka

Council Liaison: Candy Petersen

Staff: Scott Duddeck
Jill Officer
Olivia Boerschinger
Ron Ritchie

III. ADOPT AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approve the August 26, 2020 regular meeting minutes

On motion by Commissioner Haas, seconded by Commissioner Zahradka with all present voting aye, motion carried to approve the August 26th 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. Review/Discussion/Recommendation: Staff Reduction-Scott Duddeck discusses going through difficult times with budget issues and unfortunate staff reductions. City had to do cuts for the health of the city and to move forward with things going on. Reassured the commission that the Parks and Rec projects will continue. The city wants to continue to support activities. Introduced other staff that will help support- Olivia Boerschinger, Ron Ritchie. Council Member Peterson reiterated that it was a tough decision, we lost good people, reassured that the commission will be supported.

Commissioner Thorsen questioned who would take on the roll Keith used to play as far as setting up, getting there early, etc. Duddeck stated he is working on distributing duties to other staff.

Commissioner Zahradka expressed concerns of layoffs. If this becomes a burden there's potential to lose good commissioners. Big concern that the work of Keith and Debra will be done by the commissioners, and as a volunteer it's difficult to take on that extra work on top of work and family.

Commissioner Greenlee-Karp acknowledges it was a difficult decision but disappointed it affected the Parks the way it did. Nervous about the strain on the members and the momentum of moving forward and the need to protect the momentum and commission members time.

Other questions answered by Scott Duddeck 1) He will come up with one point of contact, the work that needs to get done will not get pushed back on to the commissioners. 2) The funding has been restructured but not reduced from PRC. 3) Consideration for the staff reductions took into account the least impact on maintaining services across the board but reducing cost with the current staff.

Mr. Duddeck also recommends to have one or two representatives to go to council with the large impact projects and keep those moving ahead -pickle ball courts, equipment projects, and park signage to keep council in tune with those.

Chair Grachek- volunteered to be the point person to attend council meetings as necessary
Scott- Minutes, agendas, and finance reports will stay with the city staff.

- B. Review/Discussion/Recommendation: Star Watch-** location update to Casey Lake Park, registration to be setup on Community Education website by Commissioner Greenlee-Karp. Cancellation email and refund is built in to Community Education system if necessary. Limit of 40 people, 4 person per family limit, \$3 fee to offset cost of PPE, safety glasses. Scott Duddeck to contact Mike for full details for the night; no food, screen for presentation, start time. New disclaimer sent out from Mike for people to sign. Several people coming to assist- Thorsen, Peterson.
- C. Review/Discussion/Recommendation: New software-**Working on software update to OpenGov and CivicRec to help with park and rec reservations with events like Star Watch and other types of events
- D. Review/Discussion/Recommendation: Polar Park** moving ahead with the sidewalk, border around playground and most of the sand taken out in preparation for mulch. New swing set will be going in soon. Potential to go all the way through for a way to Richardson elementary. Sidewalk ties into boulevard on Shawnee on the east.
- E. Review/Discussion/Recommendation:** Trick or Treat cancelled, National Night Out
- F. Review/Discussion/Recommendation:** Medallion Hunt suggestion for October- Commissioner Greenlee-Karp presents and idea for a medallion hunt to replace other cancelled

events. Commissioner Koller loves the idea as a way to get people in the parks but worry about congregating too much toward end of hunt. Commissioner Zahradka has noticed the parks are pretty crowded, it's a personal choice to be there. Commissioner Greenlee-Karp will keep looking into the idea and anyone good with clues or hiding reach out to Laura.

VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF

- A. **Review/Discussion:**
- B. **Review/Discussion:**
- C. **Review/Discussion:**
- D. **Review/Discussion:**

IX. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS & PARK LIAISONS

- A. **Review/Discussion: Silver Lake** -Need another garbage can at Silver Lake- and 19th
- B. **Review/Discussion: Silver Lake Lifeguard towers** - shrubs/plants overgrowing tower, clean up brush. Lifeguards cannot use the tower as it's too high. Tower to be removed. Commissioner Springborn requests to remove trees by restrooms. Ramsey County did a cleanup of invasive weeds along the shoreline on the south side. Main elm tree at beach to remain.
- C. **Review/Discussion: Pickle Ball**- Silver Lake gets used quite a bit. Discussion of pickle ball at Hause- court would need to be widened, setting is important –park historically is not used that much, but is a better setting than McKnight. Sue- it's really too tight and suggests putting in a basketball court. Laura likes the idea of basketball court as kids are already using it to play catch.
- D. **Review/Discussion: Park Requests**- let public works know when anything is needed. Feel free to call anytime on requests, no need to wait for a meeting.
- E. **Review/Discussion: Signs for parks**-Last month's motion for park welcome signs to do 6 park signs this year.
- F. **Review/Discussion: Casey Lake**- Along north parking lot, there are trees and shrubs growing up through the pines that need to be cleared out.
- G. **Review/Discussion: Delaware development**- where does the greenspace fall under? –It will be maintained by the city and falls under Park and Rec. No agreement made with the developer yet.

X. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Commissioner Cole, seconded by Commissioner Springborn with all present voting aye, motion carried to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm

Next meeting: October 28, 2020 – online meeting format via Zoom.