

APRIL 2011 MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2011

Location: Duluth and Case Community Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynda Anderson, Susan Bishop, Jonathan Carter, Erick Goodlow, Dave Haley, Paul Middleton, Betsy Mowry, Andy Trcka and Carrie Wasley

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Hahm, Meghan O'Hare, Kathy Korum

GUESTS: Cheryl Kaup, Alan Kaup, Jennifer Porwit, Tony Schmitz, Bill Driver, Brinkley Prescott, Jill Peterson, Dave Franken, Patricia Ohmans, and Edward Davis

1. AGENDA, MINUTES, INTRODUCTION, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Carter.
- b. Commissioner Middleton moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Haley 2nd the motion. The vote was 9 to 0 in favor with no Commissioners absent.
- c. The March 2011 minutes were not provided and therefore no vote was taken to approve or oppose. The March 2011 minutes will be reviewed at the May 2011 meeting.

2. PRESENTATIONS

a. Duluth and Case Community Center Presentation

Cheryl Kaup from the Duluth and Case Booster Club presented an overview of the Duluth and Case Community Center. Her focus was on the importance to keep the Center open as a functional recreation center as opposed to changes proposed in the Parks System Plan which was approved by the Commission in January 2011. Ms. Kaup briefly talked about the successes, challenges, the neighborhood efforts to improve the area and reviewed current programs.

b. Frogtown Gardens

Frogtown Gardens is a non-profit organization dedicated to a greener, healthier Frogtown. Patricia Ohmans, a Frogtown Gardens representative, spoke to the Parks and Recreation Commission about a parcel of vacant land in the center of the Frogtown neighborhood. This land, which is owned by the Amherst Wilder Foundation, is for sale. They are very interested in the idea of the City acquiring this land to be preserved as green space. Frogtown Gardens envisions a portion of this property could be developed as Frogtown Farm which could offer many teaching and revenue generating possibilities.



Director Hahm acknowledged the groups' interests to pursue such a plan here as being generally consistent with a need to develop parkland in the area identified in the Department's "Park System Plan".

Patrica Ohmans requested a letter of support. Commissioners Anderson and Middleton moved to approve her request. Commissioner Wasley 2nd the motion. The vote was 9 in favor in support with no Commissioners absent. Staff were requested to draft a letter consistent with the discussion for Commission review.

3. ACTION ITEMS

a. Resolution #11-03 Franklin Magnet School Building Agreement

Director Hahm briefly explained the facility trade that has been in discussion. The Department of Parks and Recreation owns a building on leased school district land (at Harding High School where Merrick Community Center is currently housed) and the Franklin School building resides on City land (where the Boys and Girls Club is currently housed within a portion of the school formerly called Valley Recreation Center).

Merrick Community Center wants to end their agreement with the City and the Franklin School has closed down. As a result, the Department of Parks and Recreation and the ISD 625 have met to work out a transfer of ownership of the two facilities. The Department of Parks and Recreation would gain ownership of Franklin School to lease to the Boys and Girls Club and the ISD would gain ownership of the facility where the Merrick Community Center is currently located. The City, St. Paul Schools and interested partners are all in complete agreement on this transfer – a very positive outcome for all.

Director Hahm recommends approval from the Parks and Recreation Commission of Action Item #11-03 – Franklin Magnet School Building Agreement.

Commissioner Bishop moved to support the transfer of facility ownership and was seconded by Commissioner Trcka. The vote was 9 to 0 in favor of support with no Commissioners absent.

b. Resolution #11-04 Gordon Square Agreement

Director Hahm briefly explained that the City owns a small triangle parcel of park land known as Gordon Square located at 2270 Blake Avenue (in the Langford Park area). This parcel abuts residential property. The resident is requesting to purchase the parcel for the purpose of owning the land upon which an encroaching garage is currently situated.

Director Hahm indicated that this parcel of park land provides very limited park value and is treated essentially as private property now and therefore recommends approval to dispose of it.

Commissioner Wasley motioned to approve the disposal of Gordon Square and was seconded by Commissioner Middleton. The vote was 9 to 0 in favor with no Commissioners absent.



c. **Resolution #11-05 Tilsner Carton Company Agreement**

Director Hahm briefly explained that the City owns park land known as the Trillium Nature Sanctuary located between Maryland Avenue, Agate Street, Jenks Avenue and the BNSF Railway tracks. Tilsner Carton Company, located near Trillium Nature Sanctuary, has an interest in acquiring a portion of the park land (a 5,700 square foot area) to be used for parking of tractor trailers and other vehicles required for their business which has encroached on the property.

Director Hahm indicated that this small area of park land within Trillium Nature Sanctuary provides no discernable park value. Its disposal also does not alter existing conditions and therefore recommends approval to dispose of it through a Quit Claim Deed to the Tilsner Carton Company.

Commissioner Middleton motioned to approve the disposal of the 5,700 square foot area within the Trillium Nature Sanctuary as explained by Director Hahm. Commissioner Goodlow seconded the motion. The vote was 9 to 0 in favor with no Commissioners absent.

4. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

a. **Como Regional Park Advisory Committee**

Deputy Director Kathy Korum updated the Commission on the list of individuals who have committed to joining the Como Regional Park Advisory Committee. Kathy indicated there are still “visitors at large” members to be determined and will continue to accept applications through Friday, April 22. She asked for the Commission’s assistance to review applications and make recommendations. Kathy will send applicant details electronically to each Commissioner. All Commissioners agreed to review applications and make recommendations prior to the May meeting to finalize the Como Regional Park Advisory Committee.

Kathy also asked for consideration from the Parks and Recreation Commission to have representation on the Committee with a leadership role. Director Hahm indicated that a potential new Parks and Recreation Commission member has expressed interest in joining this Committee. Since this potential new Commission member would not officially start until June 2011, Commissioner Trcka volunteered to temporarily represent the Commission until the new commissioner can be considered.

b. **June Tour – Site Suggestions**

The following sites were recommended to visit on the June tour: Lewis Park, Highland Pool, Hamline-Hauge, McMurray Fields, Como Pool, Oxford Community Center, Dunning Fields, Wilder Site, Como Golf Course Parking (look at specific area), Front and North End Teen Center, Sprocket facilities (discuss on the bus). Submit other interested sites to Diana by the end of May.

5. **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

a. **Department Monthly Highlights**

Director Hahm highlighted a couple issues:

Mississippi River Flooding – Director Hahm indicated flood levels did not surpass any records, but still expects it to take a long time for the flood to recede. Specific parks along the river were closed as the water rose. Clean up will probably occur in late May and June. Expenses resulting from the flood could qualify for FEMA declaration for business owners along the River.

Emerald Ash Borer – Community meetings have been held to inform the public about the 2011 Structured Ash Tree Removal process which began in March and removals had been initiated. A limited treatment plan will be used to further contain the pest.

b. **Budget Update**

Director Hahm indicated that he has begun the budget process for 2012 at this time. He may have more information by the May Commission meeting.

The current State budget being discussed at the Legislature impacts affect youth jobs and Metro Parks money

6. **SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

a. **Second Shift**

Commissioner Mowry provided a brief report.

b. **Blooming St. Paul**

Commissioner Anderson indicated the next meeting is Monday, April 18.

c. **Transportation Advisory Board**

Commissioner Trcka reported there have not been any recent updates.

d. **Trees**

Commissioner Goodlow indicated the next meeting is Thursday, April 14.

e. **Ramsey Conservation District**

Commissioner Wasley indicated there has been some reorganization taking place which has stabilized budget for the next three years.

f. **Other Reports**

Commissioner Mowry announced a Teen Art Exhibit from The Canvas, scheduled for Saturday, April 30 at the Hancock Recreation Center, is in participation with the annual St. Paul Art Crawl.

Director Hahm invited the Commissioners to the Great River Park Open House scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 6:30 pm, at the River Center Ballroom.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Anderson motioned to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Mowry. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

