

**December 2014 Meeting Minutes  
Hancock Recreation Center**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** N/A

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mike Hahm, Kathy Korum, Joan Phillips, Tyler McKean

**GUESTS:** Shirley Erstad, Liz Lassiter, Allen Stowder, Jon Oulman

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

- a. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Trcka at 6:32 p.m.
- b. Commissioner Shively moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Goodlow seconded the motion. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with two commissioners absent.
- c. A motion to approve the November 2014 minutes was made by Commissioner Bishop and seconded by Commissioner Shively. The vote was 7 to 0 in favor with four commissioners absent.

**2. DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS**

**a. Ski Update – Tyler McKean**

- Tyler McKean, Facility Program Manager, provided an overview of the ski program. The facilities are set up and ready to go. Ski remains in a holding pattern due to weather conditions that are out of staff control. Staff will do their best to meet expectations and rearrange scheduled classes and events as the weather dictates. The Commissioners were invited to tour any of the ski facilities over the course of the winter.

**3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**a. Rec Center Partnership Contract Updates**

- Respondents to the RFP have been notified of awards and are negotiating terms of their contracts. All relationships were renewed with the exception of Leonardo's Basement at Griggs who chose not to respond to the RFP. Staff are attempting to establish consistency in the contracts in terms of fee structure, capital improvements, and utility expenses. The Commission will receive the contracts and make a recommendation prior to approval.

**b. Other Items**

- The 2015 Operating Budget was adopted by the City Council on 12/10. New funding was included for the Design Center, youth jobs, and fee waivers that will allow for increased access to the swim program. 2014 rec center adjustments were carried forward in the 2015 budget and are expected to remain part of the base budget.



#### 4. ACTION ITEMS

##### a. Res 14-14 Como Lakeside Pavilion – Como Dockside

- A staff report was provided by Mike Hahm. The City separated from the current operation. Operations were stopped as of 12/1/14 other than a few remaining private events through the end of the year. After extensive community outreach to gather input on desired outcome at the space, including a survey and meetings that included more than 1,000 comments, the Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued which outlined both City and community expectations. Three qualified responses were received, ranked, and evaluated by a 14-member selection committee largely made up of community members. The City's Department of Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity (HREEO) led the RFP process. Como Dockside ranked highest and the proposed agreement was negotiated keeping in mind the desires put forth by the community (e.g., an expanded restaurant space, a diverse music venue, and a private gathering space). The City also sought out the review of a qualified third-party partner who had extensive experience with complicated concession contracts at the RiverCentre regarding best practices for business terms. Following a successful negotiation process, Como Dockside will officially open in May of 2015. Key business points of the contract were outlined. Expected commissions and capital investments into the facility are likely to exceed \$1 million over the duration of the contract. The opportunity to renew the contract after five years will be based on a qualitative and community review that is outlined in the agreement.
- John Oulman, Como Dockside, LLC, spoke about their specific plans to address community desire for access to the space, water recreation that will include kayaks and canoes, a revamped dock space, expansion of service hour, services that includes an extension to sidewalk service, and an expanded connection to the park. They will book music for the space and will work with the City to honor the City's right to the first 20 bookings to continue offering Music in the Park.
- The Commissioners spoke of feedback they had received from community members which primarily consisted of excitement about the change and underutilization of the space in the past.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Marckel and seconded by Commissioner Goodlow. The vote was 9 to 0 in favor with zero commissioners absent.

##### b. Res 14-15 Renaming Pedro Park (heard and voted on ahead of Item 4a. Res 14-14)

- A staff report was given by Mike Hahm. The resolution follows through on the donation agreement from 2009 and formally names the parcel of parkland as "Pedro Park". A temporary installation, the Urban Flower Field, has been erected in partnership with Public Art St. Paul and the University of St. Thomas. Parks staff has larger plans for the space dependent upon additional land acquisition. The Pedro family was contacted and is happy with the proposed steps and temporary use of the space. Staff will continue to assess the use of temporary signage at the Park as long term use of the park is mapped out.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Mountain and seconded by Commissioner Shively. The vote was 9 to 0 with zero commissioners absent. The resolution was adopted.

**5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**a. Annual January Planning Session**

**6. SUBCOMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE REPORTS**

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

Commissioner Marckel stated that a subgroup of neighbors who had looked at priorities for the use of money allocated by the legislature for Como Transportation Improvements will meet in January or February to look at performance criteria in the area south of the pool

**b. Blooming Saint Paul – Commissioner Mountain**

No update

**c. Transportation Committee of the Planning Commission – Chair Trecka**

No update

**d. Trees – Commissioner Goodlow**

Commissioner Goodlow stated that the TAP is currently voting on landmark trees. He will provide information to the Commission on the list of trees that have been submitted.

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

No update as the previous meeting had been rescheduled

**f. Rice Park Revitalization – Commissioner Haley**

Commissioner Haley has attended 1 meeting, with 3-4 total planned, and the group hopes to have a plan in place soon. They have spent time on the history of the park, how to improve functionality, and use of the space.

**g. Community Engagement Reports**

Commissioner Shively discussed progress at Victoria Park. The group will make additional recommendations for capital improvements but work will begin on the south side restroom and picnic pavilion. They hope to have funds left over to begin work on the trail system.

**h. Other Reports**

Commissioner Goodlow shared that the Jimmy Lee 11U football team attended a Vikings game and their picture was featured in the program.

The Commissioners who attended the Chinese Garden presentation at District 5 reported that the meeting was well attended by the public and elected officials.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

- a.** A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Haley and seconded by Commissioner Marckel. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.