



**South St. Paul
Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Minutes of February 14, 2023
City Hall – Training Room**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting was called to order by Josh Regan at 6:03 p.m. at South St. Paul City Hall.

Members Present: Josh Regan, Nicole Hall, Cretia Radman, Sadie Patet, Cindy Bonowitz, Rich Dippel and Lori Miller

Others Present: Shannon Young, Mercedes Miklya, Colin Trudgeon, Joe Kalizewski

1. INTRODUCTIONS – Colin Trudgeon – Recreation Specialist

Mrs. Young introduced Mr. Trudgeon & he shared a few things about himself to the commission. Mr. Trudgeon grew up in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. He attended school at MNSU-Mankato and graduated with a bachelor's degrees in Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services last May. He completed an internship with the City of Golden Valley last summer and most recently worked for the City of Inver Grove Heights. Mr. Trudgeon was hired January 17th, 2023.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting Notes of Jan. 10, 2023.

Motion by Josh R. approved by Cretia second by Cindy B. to approve the Minutes of January 10th, 2023.
7 Yays 0 Nays Motion Approved.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation Program Updates – Flannel Fest Events, Brochure, Upcoming Events

Mrs. Miklya was pleased with the Flannel Fest events, seeing more people showed up than last year. Flannel Fest consisted of 5 events spread out over a weeklong span. Events included Flapjacks and Flannels, Hotdish Showdown, Lumberjack Lanes, Starlight Sledding, and Babe's Boot Hockey Tournament. Mrs. Miklya talked about changing the timeline of some events around next year. We received donations from Croatian Hall, Pete's MN Projects, Apparel Lab, Concord Lanes, Majestic Real Estate and Farmers Insurance for events this season. The summer brochure being completed soon including 4 field trips, camps, aquatics, and special events. Upcoming events: Egg Hunt and Springtime skate coming in April. Volunteers requested.

B. Doug Woog Arena Updates – ISI Event

Mrs. Young noted there was a bid for 2024 synchronized skate, which is a big event with volunteers, with 600-700 skaters, and the bid was accepted. Beginning stages and the creation of a committee is now underway. There is no official date selected yet, but likely in April 2024. Mrs. Young also stated that Doug Woog hosted a Vulcan hockey game at the arena for St. Paul Winter Carnival, which was a success, with 86 pounds of food collected and over \$1,000 raised. They said it was their biggest crowd ever, and they want to return. Many thanks to Arena Manager John Wilcox for coordinating and arena staff for their support of the Winter Carnival Game. The Doug Woog Arena roof is 90% completed. More changes to come, there is a meeting coming up soon to discuss further changes.

C. Wakota Trailhead –

Mrs. Young stated council approved a JPA. There will be a meeting soon to discuss the beginning of construction of trails. They are working on getting funding to add fiber to the trail bathrooms. Mrs. Young then talked about

upcoming changes to the community gardens. Ms. Hall stated there was an issue with weeds overgrowing in the garden plots last year. Gardeners were split in whether the gardens should be tilled. They are also working with the county to get funding for the boat launch concrete to be replaced.

D. City Hall Renovation Update

Mrs. Young stated that renovations are on the final stages. The police department is still underway, along with the top floor offices. Everything should be completed by April, if all goes to plan. The Fire Department will be moving to Public Works, which is a work in progress. Everyone is trying to stay on schedule.

E. Park Master Plan

Mrs. Young stated that the preliminary master plan is done. Mrs. Young and Ryan G are meeting soon to go through first round, and then it will be sent out to commission. The Parks and Recreation Department will be looking for feedback before presenting to council.

F. Simons Trail – Kiosk – Dakota County

No updates yet.

G. Master Plan City Facilities

Mrs. Young stated that she is working with staff on a Facility Master Plan, and preliminary meetings regarding the plan are underway. They went through and talked about each facility, the vision moving forward, and priorities moving forward. Ms. Young stated that there is more to come, and she will keep commission updated. Mr. Kalizewski stated money from the State may be coming through for a new Public Works building.

H. Park Assignments/Visit Reports

The rinks are closed for the season. The warmer temperatures and the heat of the sun this time of year causes the ice to heave and creates many safety concerns with the ice surface. Many thanks to our parks staff with their commitment to providing a great ice surface for our community ice skaters.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sponsorship Program

Ms. Miklya is working on a sponsorship packet, that lists all special events and states different tiers of sponsorships available. The Commission enjoyed and supported the draft of the sponsorship packet. Mr. Dippel brought up the idea of outfield fence advertising on the baseball fields. Ms. Miklya will report back with a draft.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

None

6. ADJOURNMENT – Next meeting: March 14, 2023.

Motion by Josh R. and second by Cindy B.

Respectively submitted,

Colin Trudgeon