



**South St. Paul
Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Minutes of April 11th, 2023
City Hall**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting was called to order by at 6:02 p.m. at South St. Paul City Hall

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

Members Absent: Sadie Patet

Others Present: Shannon Young, Mercedes Miklya, Colin Trudgeon, Pam Bakken

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Rich and second by Cindy to approve the Minutes of March 14th, 2023.
5 Yays O Nays Motion Approved.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3A. Recreation Program Updates –Egg Hunt, Upcoming Events

Mrs. Miklya discussed the Egg Hunt which hosted over 800 people with 2700 eggs, which were all gone in a matter of seconds. There was a lot of snow at Kaposia Park leading up to the event, but most was gone by the time of the event. There was a Petting Zoo at the Egg Hunt, which was a hit, with long lines most of the time. Kwik Trip helped and donated 300 donuts to the police department to hand out at the Egg Hunt. Mrs. Miklya and Mr. Trudgeon are focusing on hiring and recruiting seasonal staff. The next big event is Kaposia Days in June.

3B. Doug Woog Arena Updates

Mrs. Young stated that the Great 8 tournament is taking place April 14th-16th, which is a high school only tourney to showcase skills. The Tommy Chicago tournament is taking place the following weekend, April 21st-23rd, which consists of out of state teams. Both weekends are anticipated to be very busy. The arena is re-doing the conference room upstairs to make it look more professional. Mrs. Young also shared that Parks and Rec are moving their storage area to the main floor. Yuro, a hockey camp director has his stuff in the storage room that Parks and Rec is taking over. He has until the end of the month to remove his belongings.

3C. Wakota Trailhead & Overlook

Mrs. Young shared that the opening of the Wakota Trailhead was April 6th. There were two companies that bid the project. There will be more to come at the next meeting.

3D. City Hall Renovation Update

Mrs. Young shared that the renovation has started on the Fire Department. They have officially moved to public works until the renovations are complete. They are set up in a side-by-side trailer. From everything that Mrs. Young has heard, everything seems to be working out well.

3E. Park Master Plan

Mrs. Young stated that the RFP is out, posted on the website, and open for all inquiries. There are more interviews this week. Mrs. Young said that there has been a lot of interest so far and has received many emails showing excitement.

3F. Master plan of City Facilities

Mrs. Young noted that Kraus Anderson was on site April 11th, with an additional 8-10 people that came through city hall for a facility study. They will look at Public Works and Doug Woog Arena on April 12th. They are also expected to look at the pools by the end of the week. The Parks and Rec team is excited to hear back from the group.

3G. Sponsorship Program Update

Mrs. Miklya has been meeting with the Jacob Steiner the cities communications employee for help with the creation of the packet. She is also working on the application portion of packet, and she will be uploading online when finished.

3H. Park Assignments/Visit Reports – Update Assignments

Each member volunteered which parks they wanted for park assignments.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4A. Gay Softball World Series

Mrs. Young shared that the Gay Softball World Series will take place from August 28th-September 1st which is the Tues-Fri of Labor Day weekend. There will be 32 games a day, spread out across 6 cities, and the fields are expected to be packed for the whole week. Parking is expected to be tight. The committee is coming on the 27th of April for a walkthrough. They want to bring a lot to Kaposia's Landing, including alcohol and concessions. The opening ceremonies are in Minneapolis.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Young said that all management supervisors are attending management training for the next 5 weeks that is focused on treating team members with respect. She also shared that her phone is blowing up with everything melting and people wanting space. The fields need to be prepped before they are made available. As of now, the fields are too mushy, but they are drying out by the day. Mrs. Radman talked about Kaposia Days. They are introducing a mud pit tug of war. She then was looking for information regarding DJs, medallion hunt specialists, and food. Kaposia Days will take place June 23rd.

6. ADJOURNMENT – Next Meeting: May 9th, 2023, City Hall Training Room.

Motion by Rich and second by Lori at 6:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Colin Trudgeon