



**South St. Paul
Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Minutes of March 14th, 2023
City Hall**

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

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

Members Absent: Josh Regan, Sadie Patet

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

1. INTRODUCTIONS –

Each commission member shared some information about themselves including their work, background, and family.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Lorie M. and second Cretia R. by to approve the Minutes of Feb. 14th, 2023
5 Yays O Nays Motion Approved.

3. OLD BUSINESS

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

Mrs. Miklya discussed the creation of the brochure. Mrs. Miklya also stated that the Egg Hunt is still on, the Public Works team moved snow today to try to make way for the hunt. The Egg Hunt will take place on April 8th. The Parks and Rec department is looking for volunteers for the Egg Hunt.

Mr. Trudgeon explained the Springtime Skate event, which is taking place on April 2nd and will feature free skate with the Easter Bunny, along with activities like an egg on a spoon race and a Golden Egg Hunt.

3B. Doug Woog Arena Updates-

Mrs. Young said hosting tournaments which have kept the rinks busy on weeknights. Doug Woog Arena will be hosting a number of tournaments coming up, including the Youth Girls State Tournament from March 17th-19th, the Great “8” tournament will be hosted April 14-16th, and the Tommy Chicago tournament will be hosted April 21st-23rd. Ms. Young also stated the roof is out for bids. Bidding is taking place March 15th, where more questions can be answered. Ms. Young said it will be interesting to see which companies show up. The rink is trying to find a way to remain open during the renovations, which is expected to be a lengthy process. Updates will be shared once Ms. Young knows more.

3C. Wakota Trailhead & Overlook

Mrs. Young has been working with the SSP City Engineer. Mrs. Young said the bid is to be completed on March 28th, and there will be more updates to come next meeting.

3D. City Hall Renovation Update

Ms. Young said the Police Department is now up to date. The building department is still on main floor of the City Hall, and they are waiting on furniture and a wall to be put up before they can move upstairs. The last department to be completed is the fire department, they are moving to the Public Works in the coming weeks. Mrs. Young mentioned that City Hall may be closed for a piece of time in the future when they Fire Department roof is being redone.

3E. Park Master Plan

Ms. Young finished a draft of the park master plan. Ms. Hall thought the draft looked great. One piece of the Master Plan is keeping the pools updated, as they have aged greatly throughout the years. Upkeep of the archery range and the river trail is also included. The question of how we use the green space at Jefferson Park is brought up in the plan. Ms. Young stated that the Park Master Plan should get a lot of attention and competition for engineering firms, as this is a big job. Mr. Dippel agreed and also thinks there will be a lot of interest in the plan. Ms. Bonowitz stated this is a great opportunity for the SSP park structure to gain an identity and a wholistic theme. A majority of the 2005 master plan was in fact completed. Mr. Dippel explained how the Park Master Plan is a guide for the future, taking action is the next step. The committee mentioned how they want the winning bid to have unique ideas for the parks, including multi-purpose facilities and spaces.

3F. Master plan of facilities

Mrs. Young stated that the plan is still in the preliminary states, but she will keep everyone updated, as there is no progress since last meeting.

3G. Sponsorship Program

Ms. Miklya showed her sponsorship packet draft, which includes different sponsorship packages for all the Parks and Recreation events throughout the year. Options range from being mentioned directly with the event, down to donations. Ms. Young is looking to add advertising to the outfield fences. Mr. Dippel asked about potential restrictions for sponsors. The committee discussed the potential risks of the lack of restrictions of sponsors. Ms. Miller pointed out how we tend to go back to the same places for donations, this packet can be an opportunity for new sponsor opportunities around the community.

3H. Armour Gates (added to agenda during meeting)

Mr. Dippel mentioned that Mark Westpfahl is looking to trying to create a park space where the Armour Gates lie. They sit on city owned land. One of the two structures is in bad shape, the idea of being made into a park has been brought up before. The question raised is, what would you do with the gates if the city wanted to build something on that land? Some citizens view the gates as very important to the history of the city. It is important for the group to be aware of the situation. Mr. Dippel mentioned moving them to the high school has been brought up. Ms. Bakken said the structure are in bad shape and it would be very expensive to move or rehabilitate the structure. She mentioned doing a ceremony and handing our bricks to those who would like to honor the structure.

3I. Park Assignments/Visit Reports

All members reported their parks are still covered with snow and look good. No concerns were mentioned. New Park assignments will be discussed at the next meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

5. OTHER BUSINESS

6. ADJOURNMENT – Next Meeting: Apr 11th, 2023, City Hall Training Room.

Motion by Ms. Miller and second by Mrs. Bonowitz at 7:24.

Respectfully submitted,
Colin Trudgeon