

1 CITY OF ST. ANTHONY
2 PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
3 March 7, 2022
4 7:00 p.m.
5

6 **I. CALL TO ORDER.**
7

8 Chairperson Niemi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
9

10 **II. ROLL CALL.**
11

12 Commissioners Present: Chair Niemi, Commissioners Bordeau, Guest, Godmare, and Reed.
13

14 Absent:

15
16 Also Present: Citizens for Sustainability Representative Lona Doolan (via zoom),
17 Public Works Director Jeremy Gumke, and City Manager Charlie
18 Yunker.
19

20 **III. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 7, 2022 PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL**
21 **COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA.**
22

23 Motion by Commissioner Guest, seconded by Commissioner Reed, to approve the March 7,
24 2022 Parks and Environmental Commission agenda.
25

26 **Motion carried unanimously.**
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28 **IV. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 20, 2021 REGULAR PARKS AND**
29 **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.**
30

31 Motion by Commissioner Guest, seconded by Commissioner Reed, to approve December 20,
32 2021 Regular Parks and Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes as presented.
33

34 **Motion carried unanimously.**
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36 **V. PRESENTATIONS.**
37

38 **A. Citizens for Sustainability Commission Updates**
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40 Ms. Lona Doolan provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission. The agenda
41 included Pavilion Solar Installation Update, Plastic Waste Challenge (February), Pollinator
42 Garden Workshop (March), Earth Week Activities (April), and Electric Transportation Event
43 (May).
44

45 Ms. Doolan stated the 2 panels were installed and connected to the grid February 3 for the
46 Pavilion Solar Installation. Online monitoring is available. This was a collaboration with the
47 school district and Hennepin County. A workshop will be offered to the teachers to review
48 how the panels are working. Information will be sent to Jeremy to be distributed to the
49 Commission.

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The results of the February – Hennepin County Challenge Team Competition were:
St. Anthony Middle School Green Team – 26 members – 891 points
St. Anthony Villagers – 6 members – 800 points
St. Anthony Village High School Green Team – 3 members – 86 points

The Pollinator Garden Workshop will be held on March 23, 2022 from 7:00 – 8:30pm and registration can be done through Community Services. This event is in collaboration with CFS/PEC/Community Services.

Earth Week Activities will include April 16-24, 2022 – Neighborhood Clean Up; April 18-22, 2022 Earth Week Challenge in Schools; and April 23, 2022 Park Clean Up Day.

The Electric Transportation Community Event will be held May 14, 2022 10:00am – 1:00pm at the St. Anthony Community Center. The event is in collaboration with CFS/Community Services. More information can be found on <https://bit.ly/May142022>.

Commissioner Reed asked Ms. Doolan about what is required for overseeing a park clean-up. Ms. Doolan stated a packet is put together explaining the scavenger hunt, gloves are passed out and trash is picked up and brought back to central location. It is engaging the community and passing out the materials and being there to support the residents. The time is 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Commissioner Reed asked Ms. Doolan to explain who the Green Teams are. Ms. Doolan stated there is a high school green team that meets. Both the high school and middle school offer opportunities to do green team during the school day. The purpose of the Green Team is to promote sustainability on campus and in our community. During the Electric Transportation Community Event it would just to be present as community outreach.

Commissioner Guest and Commissioner Reed offered to assist with the Park Clean-ups.

VI. COMMISSION REPORTS.

A. Pollinator Garden Design Workshop.

Commissioner Reed stated she had been contacted about working with the planning of working with other suburbs. She has not been able to follow-up with that.

The Pollinator Garden Design Workshop is being held Wednesday March 23 7-8:30 p.m. and is a free workshop. Registration can be done on the community services website.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS.

A. Tree Inventory.

Public Works Director Jeremy Gumke provided a summary of the St. Anthony Village Tree Inventory. He noted in June of 2022, the City submitted an application to the Hennepin County Healthy Tree Canopy Grant program to assist with the funding of a tree inventory

1 survey pertaining to trees located within the city right-of-way in Hennepin County. The City
2 has been a member of Tree City USA since 2016 and values the fostering of a healthy urban
3 tree canopy. A grant in the amount of \$5,000 was awarded to complete the survey, which will
4 allow the City to apply for future grants from Hennepin County related to tree care. The City
5 partnered with Tree Trust, a local non-profit program, to complete the tree inventory. The
6 survey was completed in the winter of 2021.

7
8 The number of trees is 832 with tree cover of 8 acres. The most common species are Freeman
9 maple, Norway maple, and White spruce. Pollution removal is 354 pounds a year and oxygen
10 production is 16 tons a year. The structural value of the trees is \$941,000. Commissioner
11 Guest asked what 8 aerial acres percent of the City is? Mr. Gumke stated he will research and
12 report back.

13
14 Mr. Gumke noted the increased tree diversity can minimize the overall impact or destruction
15 by a species-specific insect or disease. 13% of the tree population surveyed are on the MN
16 DNR state invasive species list (Norway maple, Russian olive, Black locust, etc.). The Air
17 Quality Improvement Strategies, Oxygen Production, and Air Pollution Removal were
18 reviewed. Commissioner Bordeau asked if trees would be cut down and Mr. Gumke stated
19 only when necessary.

20
21 Next steps include the completion of the Tree Inventory which qualifies the City to apply for
22 future County grants. Data collected will be integrated into the City's GIS system for
23 monitoring and updating the tree canopy. Continue to seek direction and priorities from the
24 Parks and Environmental Commission.

25
26 Mr. Gumke summarized "Understanding an urban forest's structure, function, and value can
27 promote management decisions that will improve human health and environmental quality.
28 The Tree Inventory provides valuable data that will be used to monitor current trees within the
29 right-of-way, future species selections, and future tree planting locations.

30
31 **B. 2022 Pyramid Mission Statement.**

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33 City Manager Yunker reviewed the 2022 Pyramid for the Strategic Plan. Mr. Yunker
34 highlighted this year single-hauler organized collection of recycling, waste and organics will
35 be explored.

36
37 Commissioner Reed asked if there can be a bulletin board put on the wall by the organics
38 recycling area about how much has been collected? Mr. Yunker will look at that.
39 Commissioner Bordeau stated that information is available. It could also be reported in the
40 City Newsletter.

41
42 Commissioner Guest asked if there is a way to incentivize residents to do more recycling as
43 far as rates when creating the RFP for hauling. Commissioner Bordeau stated there are some
44 minimal incentives such as reducing waste cart size when doing organics recycling.
45 Commissioner Bordeau stated she would like to learn more about curbside organics recycling
46 and having one County's program for the entire City. Commissioner Godmare asked if

1 Commissioner Bordeau stated Ramsey County owns the fence around the organics collection
2 site and it would be very expensive to add a second door.

3
4 **C. 2022 Parks & Environmental Work Plan.**

5
6 City Manager Yunker reviewed the City Council approved St. Anthony Village Parks and
7 Environmental Commission 2022 Work Plan. In 2022, the Commission will focus on the
8 following items:

- 9 • Continue with citywide Parks cleanup in Spring 2022.
- 10 • Education and outreach in conjunction with community organizations to promote use
11 of the organics drop off site.
- 12 • Explore pedestrian & bike friendly routes.
- 13 • Joint meeting with Planning Commission.
- 14 • Explore water conservation initiatives working with Rice Creek and MWMO
15 watersheds, and partner with schools for water conservation poster contest.
- 16 • Promote Arbor Day and Tree City activities in, including outreach and education to
17 residents and city contractors about tree diversity, climate resiliency, and proper
18 planting techniques.
- 19 • Promote Sustainability Fair at the Community Center.
- 20 • Review results of Tree Inventory.
- 21 • Explore dedicated Pickleball courts be added to the parks amenities.
- 22 • Review results of parks evaluation.
- 23 • Complete annual walk-through of all City parks.

24
25 The consensus of the Commission was agreement with the Plan.

26
27 Commissioner Guest stated many other cities have plans to increase the tree canopy. He
28 asked if it is possible for St. Anthony to expand the tree canopy within the City, noting
29 Minneapolis and St. Paul offer reduced priced trees with delivery to residents each Spring.

30
31 Commissioner Reed asked if increasing the tree canopy should be added to the Commission
32 Work Plan.

33
34 Commissioner Bordeau stated she does not believe so given the report Mr. Gumke just
35 provided indicating St. Anthony isn't showing a huge need to expand the tree canopy.

36
37 Chair Niemi suggested that could possibly be on for next year.

38
39 Commissioner Godmare asked where the money comes from for planting trees. City Manager
40 Yunker the report shows how diversification should be done given the tree survey. Grants are
41 available to assist with diversification. The funds would be put into the budget. Staff can
42 research having a tree sale.

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45 **VIII. COMMUNITY FORUM.**

1 No one appeared to address the Commission.

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3 **IX. ADJOURNMENT.**

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5 Motion by Commissioner Reed, seconded by Commissioner Guest, to adjourn the March 7,
6 2022 meeting of the Parks and Environmental Commission at 7:50 p.m.

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Motion carried unanimously

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11 Respectfully submitted,

12 Debbie Wolfe

13 *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*