

1 CITY OF ST. ANTHONY
2 PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
3 June 6, 2022
4 7:00 p.m.
5

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

8 Vice Chair Reed called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
9

10 **II. ROLL CALL.**
11

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

14 Absent: Chair Niemi.
15

16 Also Present: Student Liaison Henry Grooms, City Manager Charlie Yunker,
17 Silverwood Park Supervisor Alyssa Baguss, Citizens for
18 Sustainability Commission Representative Lona Doolan, and Public
19 Works Director Jeremy Gumke.
20

21 **III. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 6, 2022 PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL**
22 **COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA.**
23

24 Motion by Commissioner Guest, seconded by Commissioner Bordeau, to approve the June 6,
25 2022 Parks and Environmental Commission agenda.
26

27 **Motion carried unanimously.**
28

29 **IV. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 7, 2022 REGULAR PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL**
30 **COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.**
31

32 Vice Chair Reed noted on page 2, line 25, of the March 7, 2022 minutes she would like to add
33 the sentence: "The purpose of the Green Team is to promote sustainability on campus and in
34 our community". Vice Chair Reed also noted on page 4, line 4, the following should be added:
35 "Commissioner Bordeau stated Ramsey County owns the fence and it would be very
36 expensive to add a second door".
37

38 Motion by Commissioner Guest, seconded by Commissioner Bordeau, to approve March 7,
39 2022 Regular Parks and Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes as revised.
40

41 **Motion carried unanimously.**
42

43 **V. PRESENTATIONS.**
44

45 **A. Silverwood Park Updates.**
46

47 Ms. Alyssa Baguss presented a Power Point review of Silverwood Park. She noted Summer
48 Concerts will be held every Wednesday 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. from June 15 through August 24,
49 2022. The schedule was distributed to the Commissioners. More information is available on

1 www.silverwoodonstage.org. Ms. Baguss showed photographs of the outdoor sculpture
2 “Encountering the Subtle Threshold” by Erin Paradis that can be viewed daily from 5:00 a.m.
3 – 10:00 p.m. Photographs of the gallery exhibitions were also provided for Commission
4 review. The exhibition will be open on Thursday.

5
6 Ms. Baguss indicated new art and nature programs are added to the calendar each month for
7 youth, families and adults. More information can be found on these programs at
8 www.threeriversparks.org/programs.

9
10 There are 74 events remaining on the 2022 schedule with 23 events already held. The goal for
11 number of events is 112.

12
13 There will be a Float – In Movie Theater on Saturday, July 16 and will be free and feature a
14 family-friendly film. The next Rental Open House will be held June 6 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. For
15 up-to-date calendars and rental information contact silverwoodevents@threeriversparks.org.
16 The open houses are held the first Monday of each month.

17
18 The Silverwood Park Café’s new food menu will be available June 1st 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
19 and will include local and organic coffee drinks, kombucha on tap and baked goods. A
20 student discount is offered weekdays from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at 50% off. The Perch Mug Club
21 offers discounts on small beverages with the purchase of a mug.

22
23 Ms. Baguss stated the Silverwood Park Visitor Center summer hours are 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
24 with boat rentals from noon – 6:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays. The park is open from
25 5:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

26
27 The shoreline stabilization project was reviewed and is currently in-progress. The island was
28 finished up this week. This project has been in the works for 3.5 – 4 years. She showed a map
29 indicating the area and also a photograph. The Junior Naturalist Activity Book was reviewed
30 and is available at all three parks. There are two versions in English and Spanish.

31
32 Vice Chair Reed asked if the owls are out and Ms. Baguss stated there is a pair of Great
33 Horned Owls that nest in the park each year. There is a year long focus on birds in the park.

34
35 **B. Citizens for Sustainability Commission Updates.**

36
37 Ms. Lona Doolan presented a Power Point showing the agenda. In March a Pollinator Garden
38 Design Workshop was held with 28 attending. For slides and handouts from the workshop go
39 to citizensforsustainability.org. A chart showing the “Power Plants” which provide
40 exceptional forage for a wide variety of pollinators. Those that assisted were thanked.

41
42 Ms. Doolan noted in April the Earth Day Cleanup was held. She thanked those that
43 collaborated for the event. Ms. Doolan thanked those that collaborated for the event.
44

1 In May a Safe Riding and Green Driving Event was held and those who collaborated were
2 also thanked. There was an opportunity to test drive an EV or ask an EV Owner questions.
3 Also there was an e-bike test ride. Those that collaborated were thanked.
4

5 In May there was an effort to promote No Mow May. Delaying mowing helps pollinators
6 survive the crucial period when they are coming out of hibernation. Ms. Doolan requested the
7 Commission integrate “No Mow May” in the 2023 PEC workplan to support a growing
8 interest.
9

10 In June, in recognition of the growing number of environmentally - conscious students in St.
11 Anthony schools, Citizens for Sustainability has awarded two \$500 Environmental
12 Stewardship Scholarships.
13

14 Ms. Doolan reviewed opportunities to increase composting. Organic waste in landfills
15 generates methane, a greenhouse gas that is 5 times as potent as CO2. Hennepin County offers
16 grants to non-profits and businesses to implement composting. Opportunities to increase
17 composting are to offer compost buckets at VillageFest, offer compostable kits for National
18 Night Out, and outreach to multi-family residential facilities to have a significant impact on
19 St. Anthony’s emission reduction targets. The Citizens for Sustainability will be available
20 during VillageFest.
21

22 Ms. Doolan stated she attended a Council Meeting to invite residents to participate in No
23 Mow May and for the Council to not cite residents who do not mow in May. Mr. Yunker
24 stated the City does not fine residents for not mowing. Commissioner Godmare stated some
25 residents may have been threatened with receiving a fine.
26

27 Commissioner Guest asked if a motion could be made and Mr. Yunker suggested No Mow
28 May be part of the Commission’s work-plan. Vice Chair Reed stated she will make a note to
29 make sure it is added to the work-plan for 2023.
30

31 Ms. Doolan suggested the Commission refer to the New Brighton No Mow May program.
32 There was a discussion on signs for reminders/education.
33

34 Commissioner Guest asked if for National Night Out were there funds available to offer
35 compostable plates and silverware.
36

37 Commissioner Bordeau suggested publishing a list of BPI certified materials suggested for
38 use. There is a list on the Ramsey County website.
39

40 Commissioner Bordeau asked if the City rents out holders for big organic bags for parties and
41 events. Ms. Doolan stated those can be obtained from Hennepin County.
42

43 Commissioner Bordeau asked if the grants Ms. Doolan referred to are for businesses and non-
44 profits. Ms. Doolan stated there are recycling and composting grants. Commissioner Bordeau
45 stated the Hennepin County program is called BIZRecycling. Commissioner Bordeau asked if
46 trash goes to landfills in Hennepin County. Ms. Doolan stated the trash on her side of town

1 goes to the incinerator. Commissioner Bordeau noted Ramsey County trash goes to the R&E
2 and they are coming out with a food scraps program in 2023. She asked how the City would
3 participate in that program. Mr. Yunker stated the City is going out for bid for trash hauler
4 contract that would begin in mid-2023. He noted it will be included in the RFP. Commissioner
5 Bordeau asked how the residents in Hennepin County could participate in the program. Mr.
6 Yunker stated the City Council is looking for a single hauler RFP.
7

8 **VI. COMMISSION REPORTS.**
9

10 Vice Chair Reed asked about the Teacher Workshop on how the solar panels are working and
11 Ms. Doolan stated that has been done. The information was to be sent to Jeremy for uploading
12 on the City website. Ms. Doolan stated it was recorded as a Zoom Call. (the remainder of her
13 comments were inaudible). From the last meeting, Commissioner Guest asked what 8 aerial
14 acres is what percentage of the City. He asked what percentage of the City is covered in tree
15 canopy. Mr. Gumke will follow-up. Vice Chair Reed stated she had asked if there was a
16 bulletin board where organics information could be posted. City Manager Yunker stated it is
17 put in the newsletter if the information is available.
18

19 Commissioner Bordeau stated she attended the Zero Waste session presented by Hennepin
20 County along with other Commissioners and Council Members. It was very high-level. It was
21 one step in the process of putting together a plan.
22

23 **VII. OTHER BUSINESS.**
24

25 **A. Parks Assessment.**
26

27 Public Works Director Jeremy Gumke presented City Staff annually updates and refines the
28 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that encompasses the equipment, buildings and park
29 amenities throughout the City. This plan helps ensure that these items are replaced when
30 appropriate, and that adequate funding is available when those replacements are needed.
31

32 It has been a number of years since the parks amenities were reviewed system-wide and staff
33 engaged the City's engineering firm WSB to conduct an assessment of the park amenities
34 condition and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance to further refine the CIP
35 and provide a basis of discussion for any changes in amenities to recommend to the City
36 Council.
37

38 From staff discussion with WSB staff, the overall status of the parks is that they are
39 maintained effectively, but are aging and ADA standards have changed since the amenities
40 were installed. WSB listed recommendations for replacements in short term and long term
41 categories, and brief observational comments. Staff will be completing most of the short term
42 items in the coming months, such as re-stripping for accessible parking, purchasing accessible
43 picnic tables and any deferred maintenance.
44

45 Long term items such as playground equipment and trails will need to be planned for
46 completion when funding becomes available. Replacements will be scheduled based on their
47

1 age and current condition as first priority and will start with the playground equipment at
2 Silver Point Park, as that playground is in the greatest need of replacement as soon as
3 possible.
4

5 This also presents an opportunity for discussion on what equipment features and amenities are
6 desired for when those replacements can be scheduled for completion.
7

8 Mr. Gumke provided a report covering Silver Point Park, Water Tower Park, Central Park,
9 Emerald Park and the tennis court on Silver Lane. Trillium Park and Salo Park were not
10 included as Trillium Park functions primarily as an “entrance node” and Salo Park’s condition
11 was evaluated in 2021 as part of the new maintenance agreement, and the known deferred
12 maintenance is underway as part of that agreement. A summary of recommendations, both
13 Short Term and Long Term, were presented to the Commission.
14

15 The following discussion items were posed for Commission feedback:

- 16 • Does the Commission have any additional thoughts or observations for staff to
17 integrated into the CIP?
- 18 • Does the Commission have any thoughts on changes to the current amenities in any of
19 the parks to recommend to the City Council?
- 20 • Any other considerations for staff?
21

22 Commissioner Bordeau asked what the time frame is for short term vs. long term. Mr. Gumke
23 stated if it is long term it would need to be included in the CIP. Short term would be one year.
24

25 Vice Chair Reed stated she has spoken with residents at Silver Point Park. She received some
26 feedback that Silver Point was the only park without a swing.
27

28 Commissioner Bordeau asked how we did compared to other Cities parks. Mr. Yunker stated
29 if someone reports 100% value that would have been constructed yesterday. She likes the idea
30 of looking at different play structures.
31

32 Commissioner Guest asked what would be needed to bring the playground surfaces to ADA
33 standards. Mr. Gumke stated he received an estimate for rubber tile surface at Silver Point
34 Park in replace of the pea gravel. Wood Fiber Mulch would be an option but the rubber tile
35 would be preferred.
36

37 Commissioner Bordeau asked if the pickle ball courts would be in the tennis courts and Mr.
38 Gumke stated it would be looked at to be in the hockey rink.
39

40 Vice Chair Reed stated WSB mentioned moving the pickle ball courts but did they have a
41 recommendation. Mr. Gumke stated the infrastructure is in Central Park to support pickle ball
42 courts.
43

44 Commissioner Bordeau asked about a dog park. Vice Chair Reed stated that is talked about
45 every year. Mr. Yunker stated experts recommend a 2-acre space with artificial turf.
46 Maintenance and water is needed on the site. Staff will be researching.

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Commissioner Guest stated there is a 30% increase in dogs due to COVID. It is recommended for a dog park to separate large dogs from small dogs.

Vice Chair Reed referred to Emerald Park and spoke to some residents who expressed they liked the versatility. Some feedback was the bushes near a home have a lot of weeds. They suggested mulch be brought in and placed under the bushes. One child indicated there should be more signs for throwing trash in trashcans. Vice Chair Reed stated a lot of balloons were picked up in the grass. One other child mentioned the City taking down the COVID sign as he doesn't want to be reminded of COVID in the park. One of the discussions during the planning session, was the City-owned parcel located at 39th Avenue and Stinson, and what was to be done with that parcel. One of the suggestions was that would be a good place for a neighborhood park. She asked that this be put on a future agenda.

Mr. Gumke stated the approximate age of the playground equipment at each park.

Commissioner Guest stated he heard a rumor the City will be doing a community survey. Mr. Yunker stated that is true and the survey will create a benchmark for parks. Student Liaison Grooms ask how many residents are surveyed and Mr. Yunker stated they want at least 400 responses. This survey should be done in Fall of 2022.

Mr. Gumke noted staff will utilize the WSB report and Commission feedback to refine the 2023 CIP and will bring details of that to the September 2022 Commission meeting.

B. Pollinator Design Workshop and Follow-up.

Vice Chair Reed provided a letter to the Commission thanking them for their participation and help in making the Pollinator Garden Design Workshop a success. The PPT deck and handouts are available on <https://citizensforsustainability.org/pollinator-gardens/>. She noted there are two community groups for those who might want to connect and work with other gardeners. All are welcome to join. St. Anthony Village Gardeners Contact – anita.davis19@gmail.com and Friends of the Parks Contact – <https://www.facebook.com/friends-of-the-parks-st-anthony-village-mn-115119483205964/>.

C. Neighbors Sale Days.

Vice Chair Reed reviewed the Neighbors Sale Days will be held June 17 and June 18 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. with a rain date being June 19. Sale Days are open to Northeast neighborhoods in Columbia Heights, Hilltop and St. Anthony Village. Sales can be registered and will be advertised in the Northeaster for \$10. This is the first year St. Anthony Village is included.

VIII. COMMUNITY FORUM.

No one appeared to address the Commission.

1 Vice Chair Reed noted she is resigning from the Commission and this will be her last meeting.

2

3 **IX. ADJOURNMENT.**

4

5 Motion by Commissioner Guest, seconded by Commissioner Godmare, to adjourn the June 6,
6 2022 meeting of the Parks and Environmental Commission at 8:15 p.m.

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8

Motion carried unanimously.

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10

11 Respectfully submitted,

12 Debbie Wolfe

13 *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*