

1 CITY OF ST. ANTHONY
2 PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
3 September 12, 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, Doolan, Guest, and Godmare.
13

14 Absent: None.
15

16 Also Present: Citizens for Sustainability Commission Representative Dan Kunitz,
17 St. Anthony Public Works Director Jeremy Gumke, and Assistant to
18 the City Manager Nicole Miller.
19

20
21 **III. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL**
22 **COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA.**
23

24 Motion by Commissioner Guest, seconded by Commissioner Godmare, to approve the
25 September 12, 2022 Parks and Environmental Commission agenda.
26

27 **Motion carried unanimously.**
28

29
30 **IV. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 6, 2022 REGULAR PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL**
31 **COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.**
32

33 Commissioner Bordeau stated she has three changes to the meeting minutes.
34

35 Page 2 Line 15 correction to the email address silverwoodevents@threeriversparks.org.
36

37 Page 4 Line 1 "CERC" change to Recycling and Energy Center.
38

39 Page 4 Line 2 add word "food scraps" curbside program.
40

41 Motion by Commissioner Guest, seconded by Commissioner Bordeau, to approve June 6,
42 2022 Regular Parks and Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes as presented.
43

44 **Motion carried unanimously.**
45

46 **V. PRESENTATIONS.**
47

48 **A. Citizens for Sustainability Updates.**
49

50 Mr. Dan Kunitz provided a power point summary of the activities of the Citizens for
Sustainability Committee. The Committee participated in the VillageFest Parade and

1 promoted electric vehicles. Hennepin County conducted an annual evaluation of targeted
2 wetlands through the Wetland Health Evaluation Program. An annual pollinator count was
3 organized by the Pollinator Friendly Alliance in Stillwater. Habitat was created by helping
4 plan pollinator garden at St. Anthony City Hall, refreshing Butterfly gardens in Stillwater and
5 removed buckthorn at Silverwood and Wilshire Parks.

6
7 The focus this fall will be to:

8
9 Continue to Create Habitat

- 10 • Help girl scout troop with new pollinator garden.
- 11 • Refresh plantings in the courtyard at Wilshire Park
- 12 • Refresh plantings at Middle School
- 13 • Plant trees at Nativity (Tree Canopy grant)

14
15 CFS Goal Planning for 2023

16
17 Advocate for Climate Action in 2023 St. Anthony Village Goals.

18
19 The request for climate action in 2023 goals includes:

20
21 Expand solar installation on Central Park pavilion rooftop.

22
23 Take up efforts to reduce waste

- 24 • Expand organics
- 25 • Explore single-use bans
- 26 • Promote grants within business communities

27
28 Prioritize public charging station in public space.

29
30 Initiate outreach to promote energy and water reduction.

31
32 Start a community-based effort to develop a bike/ped plan.

33
34 Commissioner Doolan asked Mr. Gumke how Mirror Lake and Silver Lake are for water
35 level. Mr. Gumke stated Mirror Lake is maintaining the same level. He cannot speak on
36 Silver Lake.

37
38 Commissioner Guest asked about the status of the contract for garbage haulers. Ms. Miller
39 stated she will provide an update later on the agenda.

40
41 Commissioner Bordeau thanked Mr. Gumke for expanding organics availability for multi-unit
42 dwellings. She asked how he would like to see that done and who would be doing it. Mr.
43 Gumke stated he has not researched that. It would have to be explored through the RFP
44 process.

1 Commissioner Doolan asked when the planning process and work plan is started for next year.
2 Ms. Miller stated those items can be placed on the draft work plan and further discussed at the
3 December Commission Meeting. The work plan is brought to the City planning meeting,
4 reviewed and approved by the City Council. Commissioner Doolan asked if the list was in
5 priority order. Mr. Kunitz stated he does not believe it is in any particular order.

6
7 Commissioner Bordeau requested Mr. Kunitz come back with a priority order. An email can
8 be sent to Jeremy Gumke. Mr. Gumke asked if a grant would be requested for the Solar
9 Installation. Mr. Kunitz stated he is not sure. Commissioner Doolan recommended Mr. Kunitz
10 look at what the vendor submitted for his cost benefit analysis. She believes there are some
11 financial benefits from Federal money.

12
13 **B. St. Anthony Garden Club Collaboration Project Updates.**

14
15 Ms. Lona Doolan presented the plan to refresh City Hall gardens. The St. Anthony Village
16 Garden Club worked with City Staff to create a design and order plants. Public Works Staff
17 cleared the area, put down a weed suppressant mat, and delivered the mulch and plants.
18 Village Gardeners drilled the holes and placed the plants. Over 250 plants were planted in 4
19 days on very hot days. The CS Pre-school keeps the flower pots watered and St. Anthony
20 Garden Club keeps the gardens weeded. A chart showing the flowers to watch for was
21 provided to the Commission. Residents interested in joining the Garden Club can contact
22 anita.davis19@gmail.com or lona.doolan@savmn.com.

23
24 Commissioner Bordeau asked what the paper plate technique is for planting. Commissioner
25 Doolan explained what was taught in the design class. They are used for spacing and color
26 arrangement.

27
28 Chair Niemi asked what was used for weeds and Commissioner Doolan stated it is a weed
29 suppressant mat that she learned from Shoreview Natives. She recommends it as it is very
30 easy to work with.

31
32 **VI. COMMISSION REPORTS.**

33
34 **A. Hennepin County Zero Waste Planning Process.**

35
36 Commissioner Doolan presented the Hennepin County Zero Waste Planning Process and
37 explained the Road to Zero Waste to date. Six model cities were studied – Washington DC,
38 San Jose CA, Rotterdam, NED, King County WA, Toronto CAN, and Alameda County CA.
39 The seven themes were reviewed Neighborhood Solutions, Equity & Access, Advancing
40 Circularity, Systems & Infrastructure, Policy, Blue Streams, and Green Streams.
41 Commissioner Doolan chose to participate in the Policy group. The preliminary results chart
42 showed Top Priorities Across Groups and Top Priorities in Policy. The Timeline and Next
43 Steps were reviewed.

44
45 Commissioner Bordeau thanked Commissioner Doolan for participating and asked if there
46 was very much engagement. Commissioner Doolan stated there were 60 people participating
47

1 in a meeting to discuss the policy segment. Commissioner Bordeau suggested we stay in the
2 loop for this.

3
4 **VII. STAFF REPORTS.**

5
6 **A. Public Works Updates.**

7
8 Public Works Director Jeremy Gumke provided a summary of what staff has been doing in
9 the Parks. The first draft of the Emerald Ash Borer Plan has been finished. The City partnered
10 with Tree Trust to do a tree inventory. The portion in Ramsey County has been completed.
11 There were 50 trees that have been treated and will be monitored and treated every other year
12 for Emerald Ash Borer. St. Anthony was named an AmeriCorps host site and will be getting
13 an intern to work with tree issues within the City.

14
15 Salo Park irrigation system has been repaired. Two additional trash receptacles have been
16 added. Minnesota Native Landscapes created a herbicide treatment at Salo Park. Bids are
17 being solicited for the concrete sidewalk on the west side of the south pond from the circle
18 north to 39th Ave.

19
20 An electrician will be making repairs at the amphitheater. The skate park ramps and rails are
21 in need of repairs and a contractor came out and identified what needs to be done to bring the
22 skate park back to original condition for a cost of \$11,000.

23
24 Commissioner Doolan asked when the intern would be coming and Mr. Gumke stated it
25 would be mid-October and one interview has been completed. Hennepin County has a Tree
26 Canopy Grant that non-profits and different businesses can apply for. Would the intern be
27 involved in writing grant requests and Mr. Gumke said the intern would. Mr. Gumke stated
28 the Hennepin County grant allowed for the tree inventory to be done and now that inventory
29 has been done the City is eligible for future grants with Hennepin County.

30
31 Commissioner Niemi asked if the fence replacement at the Skate Park is on the list. Mr.
32 Gumke stated he does not know if it has been specifically identified but it would be done.

33
34 **B. Waste Hauler RFP Update.**

35
36 Assistant to the City Manager Nicole Miller reported the current organized collection with
37 three haulers expires April 2023. Council directed staff to reduce collection to a single hauler.
38 The RFP for a single hauler was released July 1, 2022. The City has received technical
39 assistance from FOTH and have been helping the City with the process. An RFP review
40 committee was formed and evaluated the proposals that were received. FOTH provided a
41 financial analysis of each proposal. Interviews were held with the haulers in August. The next
42 step will be for the FOTH representative to attend the Council Work Session on September
43 27, 2022 to go over the process. Staff will present their recommendation for the hauler they
44 would like to go with. It will come before Council in October to begin negotiations.
45 Commissioner Doolan asked if this included Commercial hauling and Ms. Miller stated it is
46 for residential.

1
2 Commissioner Guest asked about how much curbside organics played into the process. Ms.
3 Miller stated since St. Anthony is in two counties, it will be included in the draft contract.
4 They will work with the hauler and the counties to work on a plan. There are still a lot of
5 unknowns. The contract can be re-opened just to address curbside organics but it would not
6 open the entire contract for negotiations. The contract will be for five years. The elimination
7 of the organics drop-off was not discussed. There is a lot of unknown information from the
8 counties at this time.

9
10 Commissioner Bordeau asked if residents will be able to weigh in on the options and Ms.
11 Miller stated the meetings are public so residents could but there is not a plan for any specific
12 public engagement at this time.

13
14 Chair Niemi stated in moving from 3 haulers to 1 hauler is there adjustment to the rates the
15 residents will pay during the 5-year contract. Ms. Miller stated the tipping fees would adjust.

16
17 Commissioner Guest asked if educating the public is part of the RFP. Messaging will be
18 provided to the residents and service due to the weather is included and the hauler and City
19 will work together to provide messaging. Information will also be provided in the newsletter.
20 No services will be given up that the residents currently have.

21
22 Commissioner Doolan asked if there would be tiered pricing for residents that do more
23 recycling on their own and Ms. Miller stated there are different prices for the different size
24 cans. Each household must have their own can and there is no opt out. Is the contract flexible
25 to be able to be changed as the County's waste plan changes? Ms. Miller stated that is
26 included in the contract.

27
28 **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS.**

29
30 **A. Dog Park Feasibility.**

31
32 Public Works Director Jeremy Gumke reviewed at its annual Goal Setting session, the City
33 Council identified an Action Step for staff in 2022, was to explore the feasibility of adding a
34 dog park in St. Anthony.

35
36 Staff researched the best practices in dog park design in order to identify possible location(s)
37 for a dog park somewhere in the City. A report from the City of Ann Arbor, MI on
38 "Recommendations and Guidelines for Dog Park Site Selection, Design, Operations and
39 Maintenance", which summarized optimal dog park design guidelines.

40
41 Staff presented the initial information gathered for the Commission's input and any ideas on
42 alternatives the staff has not considered. The input will be conveyed to the City Council for
43 their consideration.
44

1 In 2014, the Commission reviewed the topic of a dog park, and the focus was the ice rink in
2 Central Park for a dual use. After hearing from an official from the Minneapolis Park Board at
3 that time, it was determined:

4
5 The Commission consensus after the presentation was that this project would be a real
6 challenge for the following reasons:

- 7 • Area chosen not large enough for Dog Park.
- 8 • The need for a different type of surface other than grass (wood chips are the best
9 surface).
- 10 • Fencing around the rink would need to be upgraded.
- 11 • Potential noise problems for nearby residents.
- 12 • It is necessary regardless of the size and layout, separation between large and small
13 dog is absolutely necessary (reduces dog fights).

14
15 A report was attached summarizing best practices for placement. Staff focused on this section
16 for evaluating potential sites for a dog park before considering other aspects such as design or
17 management. The following are the key components:

18
19 Size – The recommended minimum size for dog parks varies considerably among cities, but is
20 generally between ½ acre and one acre.

21
22 Buffer from Residential – A few cities provide definitive distances from residences, varying
23 from 50 feet to 200 feet. All strive to minimize conflicts and include guidelines such as
24 making sure that noise and activity levels are no more than other park users, importance of
25 screening or visual buffers, and having a minimal impact on residences.

26
27 Parking – Recommendations include that parking should be readily accessible, close to the
28 site, sufficient/adequate size, and convenient. There were no standards for size; rather it is
29 important to consider parking when locating a dog park.

30
31 Use Conflict Avoidance – Guidelines include avoiding play areas and other recreational
32 amenities, high use areas, natural areas and water sources, wildlife, trails, community gardens,
33 and historic sites.

34
35 Staff reviewed the City’s parks layout and usage and other city-owned property, and was
36 unable to identify an appropriate location that would meet all or most of the key criteria
37 above. So, in order to add a dog park current usage and/or amenities would need to be
38 eliminated. As a result, staff’s opinion is not feasible at this time.

39
40 The City’s website lists a handful of dog parks within a reasonable distance. The closest one
41 being the St. Anthony Parkway Off-Leash Dog Park located at 700 St. Anthony Parkway,
42 Minneapolis, MN. Silverwood Park within St. Anthony includes a one-mile dog trail that is
43 maintained year-round.

1 Mr. Gumke posed to the Commission whether they have any additional thoughts or
2 observations or any other considerations for staff. The next step is Staff's input will be
3 provided to the City Council for consideration.
4

5 Chair Niemi stated this has been discussed for a long time and as much as residents want a
6 Dog Park there just is not enough space. He asked if 2 ½ miles is the closest park. Mr. Gumke
7 stated that is an off-leash park. He does not believe this is feasible at this time.
8

9 Commissioner Guest suggested Staff be created and he could think of two spaces that could
10 be explored. One by Apache Animal Hospital and the second would be between Highway 88 and
11 Rankin Road. He suggested these options be explored. He has read that dog parks increase
12 safety in the community. He does not know why a dog park needs a water source. People
13 bring their own water. A trash can would be needed for waste. Wood chips created by St.
14 Anthony could be used in a dog park. Mr. Gumke believes the 2nd option Commissioner Guest
15 mentioned is Hennepin County right-of-way.
16

17 Commissioner Doolan stated in 2019, Barbara Johnson came and spoke to the Park
18 Commission. She talked about her injuries sustained in a dog attack. When Councilmembers
19 Webster and Jenson were going door to door, they mentioned about 50% of the households
20 had dogs. The City is trying to accommodate pickle ball and there are most likely more people
21 that would like a dog park. She believes more people would be walking to a dog park rather
22 than driving. She researched small dog parks in the area and stated Lauderdale, Loring Park
23 and Elliott Park all have small dog parks. An option would be to have two different locations
24 one for small dogs and one for large dogs.
25

26 Commissioner Bordeau stated if there is or isn't a dog park are there ways the City can support
27 that. There could be a communication plan citing ordinances to show support to dog owners.
28

29 Mr. Paul White, 32nd Avenue, appeared before the Commission. He has a dog and he was
30 excited to see this on the agenda. He has seen the explosion of the number of animals. He
31 has informally polled other dog owners about having a dog park. He asked how big the
32 number is for how many residents want a dog park. The Ann Arbor report was a very good
33 document. He would like the City to continue looking to have a dog park. Mr. White
34 distributed maps of the site by Apache Animal Clinic. The site off Highway 88 is about an
35 acre. Mr. White asked if people could park on Rankin Road. He likes this location because it
36 is 100-200 yards from houses. The dog walkers he has spoken with want to help.
37

38 Commissioner Doolan asked if individuals could approach the County or should any contact
39 be through the City. Mr. Gumke suggested a recommendation go through the City Council.
40 The City does have a relationship with the Minneapolis Park Board.
41

42 Commissioner Bordeau suggested this is a good idea to explore. Commissioner Godmare
43 asked how much land would need to be dedicated to parking and Mr. Gumke noted parking
44 could be on the street. What would be a timeline for presenting it to the City Council? Mr.
45 Gumke stated it could be years. He cannot think of anything that is on County property.
46

1 Commissioner Guest stated it would be a win-win for Apache Animal Hospital.

2

3 **VIII. COMMUNITY FORUM.**

4

5 No one appeared to address the Commission.

6

7 **IX. ADJOURNMENT.**

8

9 Motion by Commissioner Guest, seconded by Commissioner Bordeau, to adjourn the
10 September 12, 2022 meeting of the Parks and Environmental Commission at 8:20 p.m.

11

12 **Motion carried unanimously.**

13

14

15 Respectfully submitted,

16 Debbie Wolfe

17 *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*

Approved