

CITY OF ST. ANTHONY
PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
June 2, 2025
7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairperson Fee called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL.

Commissioners Present: Chair Lily Fee, Commissioners Yaacoub Hark, Kristen Peterson, and Natalie Synhavsky.

Absent: Commissioner Jessica Swiontek

Also Present: Assistant City Manager Ashley Morello, Silverwood Program Supervisor Alyssa Baguss, Citizens for Sustainability Representative Dan Kunitz, Sustainability Coordinator Minette Saulog, and Student Liaison CeCe Cram.

III. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 2, 2025, PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA.

Motion by Commissioner Hark, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to approve the June 2, 2025, Parks and Environmental Commission agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 10, 2025, REGULAR PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES AND MAY 21, 2025, WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES.

Motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Hark, to approve the March 10, 2025, Regular Parks and Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Fee noted on page 5, lines 25-26, correct to read “she helped organize workers at the Silver Lane berm”.

Commissioner Peterson noted on page 6, line 37, correct to “our Minnesota climate” and on page 6, line 12, correct to read “scale group of projects”.

Motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Hark, to approve the May 21, 2025, Parks and Environmental Commission Work Session Meeting Minutes as corrected.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. PRESENTATIONS.

A. Citizens for Sustainability Update.

Citizens for Sustainability Co-chair Dan Kunitz reviewed a PowerPoint including Earth Week Update, Environmental Stewardship Scholarship, and VillageFest. Mr. Kunitz thanked all the Earth Week Volunteers and Sponsors:

Salo Park – 21 volunteers – SAV Condo Association and PEC

Central Park – 11 volunteers – CFS & PEC

Silver Point Park – 5 volunteers – CFS & PEC

Water Tower Park – 5 volunteers – CFS & PEC

Emerald Park – 2 volunteers – CFS & PEC

Trillium Park – 16 volunteers – Village Gardeners & PEC

Silver Lake Road & County Road E – 12 volunteers – Pack and Troop 153 and local families.

Highway 88 Cleanup – 18 volunteers – SAV Kiwanis & Key Club.

Silver Lake Cleanup – Families around the lake.

Wilshire Park – Girl Scouts

SAMS – Students

The SAVHS Local Scholarship Program enables businesses, organizations, and groups like CFS to directly offset part of graduating seniors' college education. Two students are recognized for their dedication to environmental stewardship and passion to make a difference with \$500 scholarships. Mr. Kunitz thanked families and individual donors.

Citizens for Sustainability can be found at VillageFest. Residents are encouraged to share their environmental stories, view student environmental projects, sign up to win an energy savings giveaway, enjoy kids' face painting, and join CFS for a chat.

Chair Fee asked Mr. Kunitz who the other Co-chair of the committee is. Mr. Kunitz stated Lona Doolan helps with the planning and her connections.

B. Silverwood Park Update.

Silverwood Program Supervisor Alyssa Baguss reviewed a PowerPoint. Two exhibits were announced:

Sylvan Essence – Shoshana Fink – June 12 through July 31, 2025 – Opening Reception: Thursday, June 12 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

On Tree Time – Meghan Duda – June 12 through July 31, 2025 – Opening Reception: Thursday, June 12 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

There is Free Family Fun Every Month. Every second Sunday:

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1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Puppet Art Adventures

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Walk with a Naturalist

All ages and drop-ins are welcome.

Summer Teen Workshops will be held Tuesdays, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. for ages 13-19. Cost is \$40 per session.

June 17 – Burn Bowls & Hammock Hang

July 29 – Plants & Natural Dye

August 19 – Lake Ecology & Glass Art

The 2025 Float-in Movie will be held Saturday, July 19 from 9:00 – 11:00 p.m. Screening: Space Jam. This event is free for all ages.

Happy Trails! Country Dancing and Leather Tooling in the Park will be held Saturday, July 26th, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Friendly group dance lesson with Howdy Partner Dance. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Open dancing and leather tooling art activity. This event is free for all ages.

2025 Silverwood OnStage Summer Concerts in the Park are held on Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.SilverwoodOnStage.org.

A Book Swap will be held on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Remaining books will be donated to The Story Orchard.

The Big Picnic & Community Night with St. Anthony Village will be held on Wednesday, July 31, 2025, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. during the 26 Bats concert.

The Pickup Truck Opera presenting Mozart's The Return of King Idomeneo will be held on Wednesday, August 27. For more info or tickets, visit www.MixedPrecipitation.org.

A roller skating event will be held in the park on Sunday, August 24th from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. This event is free. Bring your own skates, blades, or borrow a free pair from Twin Cities Skaters. Show off your dance moves to music in the amphitheater. Skate along the paved lakeshore trail. Make retro-inspired art with Silverwood staff.

The Silverwood Park Café hours are 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. through Labor Day. Minnesota Dairy Lab Ice Cream is now available for sale.

The Island Picnic Shelter is available for rentals. Rental Open Houses are held the first Monday of the month from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Silverwood's 16th annual art and nature festival will be held Saturday, September 13, 2025, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m., featuring Live music from local bands Paper Chain and Splash. Local artist market in partnership with the Minneapolis Craft Market. Food Trucks. Games, artmaking, and nature activities for the whole family.

Ms. Saulog stated she and Ms. Morello took a tour of Silverwood, and it was a lot of fun.

VI. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Climate Plan Items

Sustainability Coordinator Minette Saulog presented a PowerPoint of Climate Plan Items for the City Council Work session. The goal for tonight's meeting is:

- Recap what PEC has discussed – sustainable building policy.
- Share new information regarding solar permitting and public EV charging.
- Review comments have been captured.
- Send any additional feedback directly to the Sustainability Coordinator after tonight's meeting.
- Consider adopting a sustainable building policy for all new and remodeled construction projects (Energy focus area).
- Address financial barriers for low-to-moderate-income residents by reducing or waiving permit submission fees for solar panels (Energy focus area).
- Consider adopting a policy on publicly facing charging infrastructure. Determine the most effective locations for EV charging stations at public facilities in SAV (Transportation focus area).
- Review multi-family EV charging ordinance (Transportation focus area).

Ms. Saulog provided a summary of the April 2 Work Session. The summary included: What type of approach would work best for St. Anthony? – Mandatory approach, scoring approach, or suggestion approach. What priority impacts do we want to target in a City overlay? What types of projects do we want this policy to apply to? – Such as zoning and/or size of building.

Staff Recommendation to Council:

- Establish sustainable building ordinance for future multi-unit developments, and commercial/industrial developments, in PUD Zones and/or over a minimum square footage size (TBD).
- Discuss whether separate ordinances are needed for multi-unit and commercial/industrial, or if the same ordinance can apply.
- Regarding all single-family projects, a suggested approach for sustainable building is recommended. Determine the applicability threshold for the definition of single-family (more than 3 units? 4?).

Ms. Saulog reviewed staff notes pertaining to addressing financial barriers for low-to-moderate-income residents by reducing or waiving permit submission fees for solar panels.

Staff Recommendation to Council:

- There is no precedent for fee waivers based on income for any other permits issued by the City.
- Administrative costs must be covered by the collection of fees.

- The cost of a solar array system and installation outweighs the cost of a permit, and there may be alternative ways to better address financial barriers and equitable access to solar.
- Recommend keeping the building (solar) permitting fees as-is.

Ms. Saulog reviewed staff notes to consider adopting a policy on publicly-facing charging infrastructure. Determine the most effective locations for EV charging stations at public facilities in St. Anthony Village.

Staff's recommendation to Council:

- Support inclusion of EV charging infrastructure in future infrastructure plans for City Hall and potentially other locations within the City.

Ms. Saulog reviewed the next steps, which include:

- Staff will incorporate PEC's input from these last several meetings to prepare materials for City Council discussion.
- July 22, 2025 – City Council work session. PEC members are not required to attend.

Commissioner Peterson suggested looking into the Solar App Plus tool that is found online.

Chair Fee asked if the excess power returned to the grid could pay the cost of the permitting. Ms. Saulog stated that it is called net metering and is between the utility and the homeowner.

Chair Fee wants to make sure the multi-family/commercial piece doesn't get dropped off. Ms. Morello stated it includes multi-family and commercial.

Commissioner Hark referred to the building policy and noted there is no mention of going with a third-party rating system. Ms. Saulog stated that it is part of the further conversation with the City Council.

Ms. Morello stated that when this information is presented, the Council will provide the final wave of approval for the policy. This is a moving piece of the puzzle. Ms. Saulog noted that a draft of the policy has not yet been prepared.

B. Well House Pickleball Concept Review and Discussion

Sustainability Coordinator Minette Saulog reviewed a memorandum prepared by Katie Koscielak of WSB. Recently, the City hosted a Parks Summit (March 2025) to review current and future priorities for the City's park facilities and amenities. During the Summit, the need for a dedicated pickleball facility was discussed, and ultimately determined that the existing tennis/pickleball court located adjacent to Well House No. 5 would be the most practical location for a dedicated facility.

A proposed layout for the dedicated pickleball courts utilizing the existing City owned property while preserving as many of the mature trees to the west as feasible was provided for

Commission review. The proposed layout includes the following amenities that do not currently exist:

- Dedicated parking outside of the existing Well House No. 5 driveway (still allowing access to Public Works).
- Concrete sidewalks to connect the existing sidewalk along Silver Lane to the pickleball court entrance.
- Permanent pickleball net system (existing system is a portable/temporary system).
- Benches and bike racks to enhance the experience of the pickleball users.
- An alternate bid item to upgrade the proposed fencing to a “heavy-duty” fence has also been provided to provide noise-canceling benefits to the site (this option would need to be included with the construction of the courts, as the layout of the fencing would be impacted).
- Alternate bid items for consideration that could be added after the pickleball courts are constructed: landscaping to provide screening and enhance the natural features within the property, lighting, and a portable restroom with enclosure.

To meet ADA requirements for the installation of the new courts, the concrete sidewalk connecting from Silver Lane to the entrance to the courts is required. All pickleball courts must be designed so that users do not cross over another court in order to reach their court.

Ms. Saulog provided the estimate of probable construction cost to construct the space. The estimate is a high-level master plan estimate (incorporating 2025 construction costs) and does not account for actual site conditions, final design (including aesthetic finish decisions), and plan preparation/bidding. The total base bid schedule is \$305,857.50, and the total alternate bid schedule is \$98,900.

Ms. Morello stated this would update the number of courts from 2 to 4 different pickleball courts.

Commissioner Peterson asked about the preservation of the mature trees and asked which ones may need to be removed. Ms. Saulog indicated on the map the trees that would need to be removed from the access walk to the courts. Commissioner Peterson suggested two fences to reduce sidewalk construction costs, with the sidewalk going to the middle of the courts. Ms. Morello stated that there would be a conversation with WSB.

Student Liaison Cram asked how many parking spaces are on the site currently. Ms. Saulog stated there are currently none. Sometimes people park on Silver Lane. WSB’s recommendation was for 16 parking spots, which was not possible to do.

Chair Fee referred to the layout and spacing between the courts. She would like to see the minimum space required between courts. She asked about benches and bike racks in the drawing and asked where they would be. Ms. Saulog stated they are not currently on the drawing, but they would like to have them included. Chair Fee asked if WSB gave a prediction of the life expectancy of the courts. Ms. Morello stated this would be a robust effort to resurface and could be provided in the future.

Commissioner Hark asked if the access to the courts without crossing other courts is an ADA requirement, and Ms. Morello stated that it is correct.

Commissioner Synhavsky asked if lighting is included in the budget. Ms. Morello stated that it is in the alternate bid. She suggested running the infrastructure for an EV Charger.

Commissioner Hark requested a corridor that goes down the middle of the courts to access the courts without the addition of a curb. Ms. Morello stated that this ties in with the grading conversation and will be reviewed again with WSB. Commissioner Hark stated that an eight-foot fence is too high, and a four-foot fence for the perimeter should be enough. Chair Fee asked what the standard is for fencing. The heavy-duty fencing would act as a sound barrier.

Chair Fee asked if this would go into the CIP review for 2026, and Ms. Morello stated that it is correct.

Ms. Morello asked for comments on the alternate bid and which items should be included. Commissioner Hark stated that for the tennis courts, there are hours for use. He asked if the lighting would be necessary. Ms. Morello stated that there are no hours of operation for the existing courts with no lighting provided. Chair Fee suggested that a restroom enclosure be provided along with landscaping, which would be her lowest priority. She asked what it would cost to add the EV infrastructure.

Commissioner Synhavsky suggested this be a multi-purpose space.

Commissioner Peterson suggested the building could provide some screening for the restroom. She likes the picnic table suggestion. She would like to see more landscaping.

Ms. Saulog noted that the existing net system is temporary, and the new system would be permanent. The fencing will need further discussion.

Commissioner Synhavsky asked if there has been any discussion with the neighbors to the north, and Ms. Morello stated there has not, since this is an early stage of the planning. Commissioner Hark noted it would be important to speak with the neighbors.

Commissioner Hark asked if the fencing can be looked through.

VII. COMMISSION REPORTS.

Commissioner Hark had no report.

Commissioner Peterson followed up on the Minnesota Climate at the State Level. [Climate.mn.state.us](https://climate.mn.state.us) for more information.

Commissioner Synhavsky stated she has not heard from MnDOT yet. She is part of a group of parents who are interested in starting a bike bus to Wilshire Park.

Chair Fee stated in the next issue of Village Notes, there will be information on Silver Lake water quality. There will be a booth at VillageFest. She asked about doing a park walk. Ms. Morello stated that this typically would happen during a work session or a regular commission meeting. As some of the projects get further in the planning process, this may be appropriate.

Student Liaison Cram stated that the biggest event for the Green Team was “Save the Bees” activity.

Ms. Saulog stated that there have been a couple of kick-offs in the last few weeks – Partners in Energy and Active Transportation. They are connected with the consultant. She has joined the Youth Council Meetings. Solar has been wrapped up at the water treatment plant. She highly recommends the tour of Silverwood. Sustainability will be represented at VillageFest.

VIII. COMMUNITY FORUM.

Mr. Paul White, 3201 32nd Avenue, stated he would like an update on the dog park idea. Commissioner Hark stated that the subject came up during the Summit. Ms. Morello stated there is no meaningful update today. Staff is continuing to evaluate. Chair Fee shared that Commissioner Swiontek had mentioned that she has received feedback of interest in a dog park during her door-knocking within the City. Mr. White stated that a lot of the people he hears from is that people view it as a community amenity.

IX. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Commissioner Hark, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to adjourn the June 2, 2025, meeting of the Parks and Environmental Commission at 8:30 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Wolfe

TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.