

1 CITY OF ST. ANTHONY
2 PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
3 MARCH 8, 2021
4 7:00 p.m.
5

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

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

10 **II. ROLL CALL.**
11

12 Commissioners Present: Chair Therese Bellinger, Commissioners Michael Guest, James Niemi,
13 Patrick Penner, and Renee Reed.
14

15 Absent: None.
16

17 Also Present: School District Representative Troy Urdahl, Silverwood Park
18 Supervisor Alyssa Baguss, Citizens for Sustainability and Friends of
19 the Parks Lona Doolan, Assistant to the City Manager Charlie
20 Yunker, Public Works Superintendent Jeremy Gumke, School
21 District Representative Cassandra Palmer, and Kiwanis
22 Representative Dale Gunderson
23

24 **III. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS.**
25

26 **IV. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 8, 2021 PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL**
27 **COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA.**
28

29 Motion by Commissioner Reed, seconded by Commissioner Guest, to approve the March 8,
30 2021, Parks and Environmental Commission agenda.
31

32 **Motion carried unanimously.**
33

34 **V. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2020 REGULAR PARKS AND**
35 **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.**
36

37 Motion by Commissioner Reed, seconded by Commissioner Guest, to approve December 7,
38 2020 Regular Parks and Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes as presented.
39

40 **Motion carried unanimously.**
41

42 **VI. PRESENTATIONS.**
43

44 **A. Silverwood Updates**
45

46 Silverwood Park Supervisor Alyssa Baguss provided a power point presentation. She
47 reviewed the mission of Three Rivers Park District is to promote environmental stewardship
48 through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system. It encompasses

1 over 27,000 acres of parks and trails and serves millions of visitors annually. An aerial view
2 of the park was provided. The park is located at County Road E and Silver Lake Blvd.
3

4 The winter programs at Silverwood Park consisted of Mid-Winter Melt, February 2, 2021
5 Ground Hogs Day Celebration; and Drawing with Mittens, February 21, 2021. In the Gallery,
6 Reconstructing the Rise of Asymmetrical Skylines by Matthew Terry will be on display
7 through April 30, 2021; as well as Circularity by Priya Thoresen.
8

9 Registration opens on March 24th at 8am for the 2021 Sumer Camps Silverwood Park from
10 June to August 2021. Reservations for 2022 opened on January 4th for weddings which will
11 continue with the COVID-19 restrictions in place. New small gatherings package includes 4
12 different spaces availability, up to 50 people, outdoors only, 4-hour rental period with reduced
13 pricing. This is available April – October. The Visitors Center is open with limited indoor
14 seating available.
15

16 The forest bathing trail has received its final, artist-designed signage and certified designation
17 (becoming the first in the state). The Natural History Trail provides the opportunity to explore
18 the 8 new self-guided stops to learn about the landscape.
19

20 Ms. Palmer asked if there would be large spaces available and Ms. Baguss stated there are the
21 amphitheater and the great hall with restrictions of 50 people or less.
22

23 Commissioner Guest asked how patronage has been in the park and Ms. Baguss stated the
24 numbers have been good.
25

26 Mr. Dale Gunderson, Kiwanis Club, noted the Kiwanis bike trail was extended to Silverwood
27 Park three years ago and asked if there is any evidence of people coming to park on their bike.
28 Ms. Baguss stated she see a number of bikers.
29

30 **B. Central Park Drain Tile Project and Stadium Field and Turf Project Update**

31
32 St. Anthony New Brighton Schools Director of Athletics Troy Urdahl reviewed a power point
33 titled Central Park Projects Update. The stadium field project has gone well. Peterson
34 Companies are the general contractors. Work was paused to allow the ground to freeze in
35 early winter which allowed for more of the soil prep work. The finish work will resume after
36 the road restrictions are lifted. The completion date is planned for August 2021. The practice
37 field should become available in the Spring of 2022. When work again begins in April – May
38 many things will happen fast and then there will be a waiting period. The drain tile project is
39 complete.
40

41 Commissioner Guest asked more about the drain tile project and Mr. Urdahl noted it was
42 installed on Fields 2 and 3.
43

44 **C. Presentation from Minneapolis Bike Advisory Committee**

1 Minneapolis Bike Advisory Committee Representative Dan Miller stated he is a friend of a
2 resident of St. Anthony (Mike Grimes). He represents Ward 1. Each Ward has a
3 representative, as well as representatives from other branches of the City. They meet three
4 times a month with one general meeting, a subcommittee meeting, and an engineering
5 meeting. There are several citizen committees including pedestrian advisory committee, senior
6 committee, disabilities committee, and others. Mr. Miller stated he lives near 22nd and
7 Stinson. Mr. Miller reviewed the projects that are underway or complete. There was a
8 sidewalk reconstruction and multi-use trail from 18th to Monroe. This summer Johnson Street
9 will be reconstructed between 18th and Johnson. There will be a multi-use trail from 18th to
10 Lowry. In 2023, Lowry Avenue is going to be reconstructed between Washington Street and
11 Johnson. In 2026, Johnson Street to the River will be done. These trails are for all ages and
12 abilities. The trails are plowed in the winter. 29th Avenue will be reconstructed in the future
13 from Central to Stinson along with 37th Avenue from Central to Stinson. Mr. Miller provided
14 an update to the Grand Rounds. The trails have been completed in sections when monies were
15 available. Commissioner Guest asked how they could help with the missing links of the
16 Grand Round. Mr. Miller stated the Minneapolis Park Board has put together a master plan
17 which included the missing link. He believes the Minneapolis Park Board and St. Anthony
18 City Staff have had some conversations. Mr. Miller referred Commissioner Guest to Carrie
19 Christensen of the Minneapolis Park Board.

20
21 Ms. Lona Doolan mentioned in 2013-2014 there was an active bike/walk group in the City.
22 She suggested St. Anthony get involved with the bike plan. Mr. Miller thought it was a good
23 idea. All bike plans funnel into the Minneapolis bike plan and safe routes to school plan.

24
25 **D. Kiwanis Update**

26
27 Mr. Dale Gunderson, Kiwanis Representative, has lived in St. Anthony since 1962. He stated
28 in 1972 the Kiwanis Club put together a St. Anthony bike route. It was aimed for the children
29 and follows streets within St. Anthony. Commissioner Reed had provided a map of the route
30 for the Commissioners. Mr. Gunderson stated it is a circle within St. Anthony. The Kiwanis
31 have since realized that no one is really using the route. One of the problems is there is no real
32 destination. It has been extended to Silverwood Park. There are no plans with what to do with
33 the route. He wanted to let the Commission know about the bike route. Ms. Anita Davis
34 stated she does use the route for the last 10-12 years.

35
36 Commissioner Guest thinks the route is wonderful and it needs to be remarked on a map along
37 with more signage or markings on the pavement.

38
39 Chair Bellinger asked how the route is communicated and Mr. Gunderson stated there are
40 maps available. He does not know how these maps should be distributed. Mr. Miller stated he
41 has taken the trail. He suggested more signage stating distance to the next point on the trail.
42 Chair Bellinger suggested the information and map be included in the City Newsletter.

43
44 Mr. Gunderson stated other destinations could be Central Park and the other parks in the City.
45

1 Ms. Doolan stated there was a suggestion to put in some type of bike pump station. Mr.
2 Gunderson stated he will bring up the suggestions at the Kiwanis meeting. The Kiwanis
3 would like to collaborate with another group either the Parks & Environmental Commission
4 or Citizens for Sustainability.

5
6 Commissioner Reed asked how the Kiwanis should get information to the Parks Commission
7 and Chair Bellinger suggested sending the items to her and she will distribute.

8
9 **E. Citizens for Sustainability Updates**

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11 Ms. Lona Doolan, 3511 Harding Street, appeared before the Commission to provide the
12 Citizens for Sustainability update. Ms. Doolan will review CFS 2021 Priorities, organizing
13 sustainability requests and review bike/walk opportunities. The 2021 Key Priorities in St.
14 Anthony were reviewed providing Priority, Status and Support Needed. The priorities were
15 within Government, within the Community and within the Schools. Ms. Doolan reviewed the
16 support needed from the Commission and/or St. Anthony residents. Ms. Doolan continued
17 showing how the sustainability requests have been organized by Comprehensive Plan goal
18 area. She reviewed the requests in detail.

19
20 The review of bike/walk opportunities were reviewed. There is an opportunity to build on
21 37th Avenue work for building on old and new ideas to improve pedestrian safety. The CFS
22 also suggests piloting a bicycle boulevard on a City street. The improvements noted in the
23 2040 Comprehensive Plan were reviewed along with the 2014/2015 community survey results
24 Successes/Assets and Challenges. Target areas for biking and walking were identified.

25
26 Chair Bellinger asked where volunteers are needed and Ms. Doolan stated this year, they will
27 not have people come to the parks to clean-up. They would be asked to do it on their own
28 rather than congregating. Commissioner Reed stated this is not the time to encourage large
29 gatherings. There could be more creative ideas to encourage residents to help individually.

30
31 **F. Friends of the Park Update**

32
33 Ms. Lona Doolan, 3511 Harding Street, appeared before the Commission to provide the
34 Friends of the Park update. A power point presentation was given to the Commission on
35 Silver Point and Trillium Requests. Ms. Doolan reviewed a brief history, demonstration
36 gardens approved in 2019, work plans for 2021, request for expanding habitat in Silver Point,
37 request for Silver Point Gate and Pathway, request for Trillium Park Pathway and 2021 Water
38 Steward Capstone Project.

39
40 The history summary included:

- 41 2014-Minnesota focus on Bees and Monarchs
- 42 2015 CPS raises Pollinator Pathway Idea
- 43 2016 St. Anthony Pollinator Pathway Grant
- 44 2018 Pollinator Protection Resolution
- 45 2018 Reconciliation Ecology
- 46 2018 Coffee with the Council

1 2018 Friends turn out for Earth Day Cleanup in Trillium Park

2 2019 Friends of the Parks demonstration garden in Silver Point Park

3
4 The demonstration gardens were approved in 2019 including a 20' x 60' flowering lawn, a 20'
5 x 40' garden and rain garden plantings. The work that was completed includes Sept 2019 –
6 Native Plug Garden Nov 2019 – Seeded Bee Lawn and June 2020 – Seeded Garden.

7
8 The work plans for 2021 are cleanup & refresh with reseeding garden with annuals, overseed
9 clover in bee lawn and post informational signs; complete phase 1 rain garden plantings; and
10 design Silver Point phase 2 expanding the bee lawn, transition turf to prairie planting, and add
11 flowering trees and shrubs. Photographs of the work to be done were provided for
12 Commission review along with detailed descriptions of work.

13
14 Chair Bellinger thanked Ms. Doolan for her presentations and the great ideas.

15
16 Ms. Doolan introduced Anita Davis who will be doing a 2021 Water Steward Capstone
17 Project. Ms. Davis has lived in St. Anthony for 39 years. She is taking the water steward
18 training program. She will be installing a rain garden in Trillium Park. This will be
19 coordinated with walking trail plan. She plans to use shrubs which are much easier to
20 maintain. She is half-way through her training and will firm up her Capstone Project by May
21 2021. The project should be completed by Fall of 2021. Commissioner Guest asked if a
22 motion is needed for approval of the project. Chair Bellinger suggested Anita Davis give her
23 design presentation to the Commission. MWMO provides funding for the rain garden. The
24 City would not need to provide any funding for the rain garden project. Commissioner Reed
25 asked if permission is needed to put the rain garden into the park. Ms. Davis stated permission
26 is needed. City Manager Yunker noted Staff provided approval for the project and Ms. Davis
27 can move forward with her proposal and make her presentation to the Commission in June
28 2021.

29
30 **G. 2020 Water Conservation Poster Contest Winners**

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32 Chair Therese Bellinger reviewed in December 2020 the Parks and Environmental
33 Commission hosted their annual Water Conservation Poster Contest. Those participating were
34 the 3rd graders of St. Charles and 4th graders of Wilshire Elementary Schools. The criteria was
35 to illustrate how one can “Save Water at Home.” Any drawing utensil could be utilized.
36 Students were limited to using an 8-inch x 11-inch sheet of paper. The judging was based on
37 originality, creativity, and use of color. Gift certificate4s were awarded to each winner and
38 could be used at any 3 Rivers Parks.

39
40 The ideas presented by all were imaginative and thoughtful. It made it very difficult for the
41 Commissioners to decide on who should win. The poster that really stood out was 3rd grader,
42 Bella Klements of St. Charles. Her demonstration of both great color, placement, and clear
43 water saving examples received a unanimous vote. The remaining 2nd through 4th placements
44 also illustrated unique and artistic ideas. 2nd Place – Eli Jordahl Redlin, 4th Grade-Wilshire;
45 3rd Place – Elizabeth Mandyck, 4th Grade-Wilshire; Runner Up and “Best Original” – Addie
46 Blenkush, 4th Grade-Wilshire.

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VII. COMMISSION REPORTS.

Ms. Palmer stated there has been tremendous work done by the district as the schools are reopened and students getting back to school. Any questions can be referred to the School District website.

Mr. Jeremy Gumke stated the skating rinks were open for 56 days and closed on February 28, 2021 due to warm weather conditions. The City Manager, Troy Urdahl, and he met with the contractor who is doing the reconstruction project on the tennis courts at the City Hall. The project should take one week. The courts need 30 days to cure before they are stripped. Temporary stripping will be used so the courts can be used during the cure time. Final completion is expected in June 2021. Commissioner Reed asked about pickle ball courts. Mr. Gumke stated there has been discussion and options are being considered.

Chair Bellinger stated she reviewed the history of discussions about a dog park in 2014. A Minneapolis Park Board representative presented what is considered an ideal dog park. Chair Bellinger summarized the needs for an ideal dog park. The challenge is the need for one acre designated for the dog park.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS.

2021 Meeting Dates

The list of 2021 Parks and Environmental Commission Meetings which occur quarterly on the first Monday of the month unless noted, will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers.

June 7, 2021; August 30, 2021 – Worksession; September 13, 2021; December 6, 2021; and, Clean-up Day will be May 1, 2021.

Commissioner Reed asked if there is a joint meeting with the City Council or Planning Commission. Mr. Gumke believes Nicole is adding those to the Parks & Environmental Commission Meeting Schedule.

IX. COMMUNITY FORUM – NONE.

X. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Commissioner Reed, seconded by Commissioner Penner, to adjourn the March 8, 2021 meeting of the Parks and Environmental Commission at 9:10 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Wolfe
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.