

**Wednesday, March 19, 2025  
Recreation & Parks Advisory Commission  
Minutes**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL - The Recreation & Parks Advisory Commission meeting was held at Operations and Maintenance Building B and was called to order by Chairperson Purcell at 6:04 PM**

**Commission Members present:**

Judy Purcell Chairperson  
Joshua Uloth Vicechair  
Emily Arias, At-large  
Latrina Caldwell, At-large  
Doug Crandall, At-large  
Dwain Erickson, West  
Taylor Murray, East  
Miriam Osammor, East  
Terry Parks, At-large  
Kellina Quigley, At-large  
Jenkins Vangehn, Central

**Absent:**

Mercy Matthews, West  
Aria Reickard, Youth Liaison  
Klarissa Yu, Youth Liaison  
Councilmember Page

**Brooklyn Park Staff present:**

Brad Tullberg, Director of Recreation and Parks  
Greg Hoag, Parks and Buildings Maintenance Manager  
Chris Sullivan, Field Supervisor – Parks  
Akihito Jacobs, Lead Public Service and Arborist - Parks  
Jeanine Machan, Administrative Assistant

- 2. OPEN FORUM-PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE**

N/A

- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**A Motion was made to approve the March 19th agenda by Commissioner Caldwell and second by Commissioner Crandall.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A Motion was made to Approve February 19, 2025 minutes by Commissioner Uloth and second by Commissioner Caldwell.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

- 5. ACTION ITEMS**

NA

- 6. GENERAL INFORMATION - PRESENTATIONS**

**6.1 O&M OPERATIONS OVERVIEW**

Parks and Buildings Maintenance Manager Greg Hoag provided a PowerPoint presentation (attached 4.1) on the City's Operations and Maintenance.

Questions / Comments

Vice-Chair Uloth asked if the city was reimbursed for maintaining the county road streetscapes? Manager Hoag responded they do not. The county helps with building costs but once they are done, they become the city's responsibility to maintain.

Commissioner Crandall asked what effect did the 2024 Presidential election have on the city-wide projects? Manager Hoag stated that at this point it is still unknown. Director Tullberg stated that grants have been

suspended but working with Senator Klobuchar's office, they are being gone through. Looking at the future, many dollars that come from the state are funded by the federal government, so it is still to be seen what effect it will have.

Vice-Chair Uloth asked what Fleet Maintenance was on the staff chart? Manager Hoag stated it is the mechanics. They will also backfill for anyone on vacation or out sick.

Commissioner Erickson asked if there was still a buddy tree process used? Manager Hoag stated that it not commonly done now.

Chairperson Purcell stated she would be interested in buying a tree for the city to plant.

Vice-Chair Uloth asked about the Emerald Ash 2014 vs 2017? Manager Hoag stated that staff knew the Emerald Ash Borer was coming and started keeping stats, however, it was first found in the city in 2017.

Commissioner Caldwell asked if the city was looking at ways to help the residents with ash tree removal? Manager Hoag stated that it is being considered. City Council will have to decide if there is a way to fund.

Commissioner Erickson asked if the grinding of trees eliminates the insect? Manager Hoag stated the equipment the city uses grinds the wood down enough that the insect does not survive.

Commissioner Crandall asked if other cities were also taking these kinds of steps? Manager Hoag confirmed yes, especially the 7 counties around the city.

Chairperson Purcell asked if based on the widespread infestation if staff felt the policy was throwing good money after bad to treat if the trees will eventually have to be cut. Manager Hoag stated the information provided is that the trees can be treated forever. However, there is a statistical loss.

Secretary Machan asked if there was any truth to the news that the treatments are having an impact on birds that eat the sap of trees or bugs that have been treated? Arborist Jacobs stated that it is possible as with any animals that consume other animals that have been exposed to chemicals.

Commissioner Crandall asked if the chemicals can get into the ground water. Arborist Jacobs said no.

Commissioner Murray asked if the spray-painted orange X means the tree is tagged to be cut? Manager Hoag confirmed yes.

Commissioner Parks stated that the state is not working on the emerald ash problem next to the city property. Manager Hoag stated that both the state and county are working on the issue as well, however you need to remember the magnitude of the problem.

## 6.2 NORTHWEST AREA PARK

Director Tullberg provided a PowerPoint presentation (attached 4.2) overview and history of the discussion around the Northwest Area Park.

### Questions / Comments:

Commissioner Crandall asked if there would be apartment buildings in this area north of Hwy 610, south of 101 and west of 169? Director Tullberg stated housing is part of the discussion and development of the area.

Commissioner Crandall stated that he had heard Maple Grove was in the news stating they don't want residential growth near the boundary. Director Tullberg responded they have developed Maple Grove at the boundary area and feel they can dictate Brooklyn Park. He stated Mayor Winston has made it clear that the city will not be dictated to.

Commissioner Erickson asked if there would be a parking ramp at the end of the light rail? Director Tullberg stated that there will be a significant surface lot as well as a ramp.

Commissioner Crandall asked if our taxes would go down? Director Tullberg stated that in theory.

Director Tullberg asked if the original vision was still relevant or if there would be any changes the commissioners would like to see?

Commissioner Crandall -suggested a water slide into the pond.

Commissioner Parks stated that a water tower needed to be a priority before all the building begins.

Commissioner Crandall stated that he agreed the water tower is a priority.

Vice-chair Uloth asked about the status of the proposal for ingenious people that Cheryl Avina presented to the commission? Director Tullberg stated that part of this park would be a recognition of the ingenious people.

Vice-chair Uloth asked if we should build out the park before the area is developed? Director Tullberg agreed that is the question, is the timing now, are the plans relevant, how important is the light rail and should we wait for it?

Vice-chair Uloth asked if the development of only part of the park was an option? Director Tullberg stated that he is looking for those thoughts from the Commission.

Commissioner Parks stated that Met Council needs the land and that they should not get it for cheap.

Chairperson Purcell stated that the amplified sound should be considered in this area as there has been great demand for it. She agreed that certain areas of the park should be developed but that some of the designs are frosting on the cake.

Commissioner Erickson commented that the development of the park should satisfy the residents, not people outside of Brooklyn Park.

Commissioner Parks stated that at the same time we want a destination park.

Vice-chair Uloth said that it might not be possible in this park.

Commissioner Crandall asked if there were any other parks in the area. Director Tullberg stated that on the trail Oak Grove would be the next closest park.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

### **7.1 3B.2 RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMISSION 2024 YEAR-IN-REVIEW AND 2025 WORK PLAN**

## **8. WRITTEN REPORTS**

### **8.1 PROGRAM AND EVENTS UPDATE**

### **8.2 PARK PROJECTS UPDATE**

### **8.3 DIRECTORS REPORT**

Director Tullberg shared the movie regarding the Teen Center for the Cops and Teens and highlighted the following:

- Anti-violence game night at Zanewood.
- April 17 – Cops and Teens basketball at Zanewood
- \$500M grant that was received from Minnesota Department of Education Grant

## **9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Director Tullberg provided information regarding the change in the State Statue regarding remote meeting procedures. After some discussion, the consensus was that RPAC would continue to meet in person.

## **10. VERBAL REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **10.1 CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – Councilmember Page**

No report

### **10.2 CAC TASKFORCE UPDATE – Commissioner Parks**

Commissioner Parks and Commissioner Murray are both on the taskforce.

Commissioner Parks reported they have met 3 times. Members have reviewed the design layout and noted the entrance will be on the west end of the building. Keeping the ice rinks. Adding 3 basketball courts on the east end. There is a shortfall of \$9.4M. A bill was introduced by State Representative Hiltley as a bonding bill for \$9.5M. The group is working on sending out letters to all the representatives asking for support. There is a toolkit on the city website to help residents reach out to their representatives.

The task force will meet every 3 weeks.

### **10.3 KEY TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT RPAC MEETING**

- APRIL – INTRO OF NEW COMMISSIONERS, SPECIAL USE FACILITIES, COMMUNITY HEALTH RESOURCES

Director Tullberg stated that he and Manager Hoag would not be in attendance at the April meeting.

### **10. KEY DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS**

- APRIL 2 COMMISSIONERS ORIENTATION
- APRIL 7 Groundbreaking at Zanewood
- APRIL 23 – Three Rivers Park District – State of the Parks

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**A Motion was made by Vice-Chair Uloth to close the meeting, second by Commissioner Crandell.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

**Adjourned by Chairperson Purcell at 7:58 PM**

Submitted respectfully,  
Jeanine Machan

Secretary

**Attachments:**

**4.1 3.19.25 RPAC Annual Presentation**

**4.2 NW Area Park 3.19.25**