

**City of Bloomington
Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission
May 13, 2015**

6:30 p.m.

Present: Gordie Holm, Chairperson; Jim McCarthy, Vice Chairperson; Commissioners, Marie Holm, Peter Moe, Ben Murphy, Dave Rickert, Lenny Schmitz

Absent: n/a

Staff: Randy Quale, Parks and Recreation Manager
Heather Lambert, Recording Secretary
Jenna Smith, Recreation Supervisor
Julie Farnham, Senior Planner

Call to Order Chairperson G. Holm called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Visitors Julie Farnham introduced herself. She is a Senior Planner in the Planning Division. Jenna Smith introduced herself as the new Recreation Supervisor in the Parks and Recreation Division. She directly supervises the youth and family programs, as well as the inclusion programs. She stated she is originally from Kentucky and worked in Parks and Recreation there. Heather Lambert stated she is the Administrative Assistant in the Human Services Division, and is serving as the Recording Secretary for this meeting, as Alison Evans is out of the office on her honeymoon.

Item #2 Creative Placemaking Plan Presentation Julie Farnham, Senior Planner, stated the purpose of her presentation is to provide background to PARC members prior to their review at its July 8th meeting of the draft South Loop Creative Placemaking Plan. She defined creative placemaking as “an emerging field that works to build vibrant, distinctive, and sustainable communities and economies through the arts”.

Item #3.1 Farnham stated the City of Bloomington and the Bloomington Theatre and Art Center (BTAC) received an “Our Town” grant in September 2013 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to develop a “creative placemaking” plan for the South Loop District and to commission public art projects that demonstrate the role art and artists can play in transforming the district’s character. The project must be completed by August 31, 2015.

Farnham gave an overview of South Loop Creative Placemaking vision and the NEA grant project. She gave an update on the “Demonstration” Projects: Discovery Charrette (June 2014), Little Box Sauna (February – March 2015), Science and Nature Mural (Summer 2015) and Cross-Pollination Walking Theatre (June 6-7, 2015). In addition, she gave an overview of initial ideas for the South Loop Creative Placemaking Plan.

The Creative Placemaking goals are to:

1. Enhance the aesthetic quality of the built environment
2. Activate the South Loop’s physical, social and cultural environment
3. Build capacity to sustain leadership and champions
4. Engage the South Loop community and stakeholders
5. Elevate South Loop’s identity
6. Foster the creative sector

The staffing structure of this endeavor includes a Creative Placemaking Director working with current City staff, current BTAC staff, consultants (such as Public Relations/Marketing, Legal Counsel, etc.) and a Project Manager. The total annual budget for this Plan is estimated to be between \$367,000 - \$384,000.

Staff will refine the Plan details, prepare a Plan draft, and will review the Plan draft with PARC, Planning Commission and Port Authority in June and July. Farnham stated the BTAC Board and City Council should approve the Plan in July and/or August.

G. Holm inquired if Minneapolis had a similar Plan. Farnham confirmed Minneapolis has an established Plan, and St. Paul recently established a related Ordinance.

McCarthy asked about funding sources for the Plan. Farnham stated there are a variety of funding sources, such as the South Loop Development Fund, the General Fund and being awarded grants.

Quale stated having arts available in the community falls under PARC duties, and this helps create a vibrant community. South Loop is being used as a testing grounds for Creative Placemaking, and this Plan may someday expand across the entire City, including in the park system. Farnham stated she welcomes any input Commissioners may have on the Creative Placemaking Plan.

Item #3.2 at this annual event since 2005. Moe stated he was in attendance, and it was a successful event.

Invasive Species Removal Events
Item #3.3
Quale stated the City's annual buckthorn bust will take place on Saturday, October 10th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Pond Dakota Mission Park (401 East 104th Street, Bloomington). This event will focus on removal of buckthorn from the Minnesota River Valley overlook area and other areas of the park, and he encouraged Commissioners to participate. He stated another buckthorn event will take place on June 2nd when approximately 100 employees from US Bank will remove invasive species from Pond Dakota Mission Park. Other smaller groups sponsor similar events throughout the year.

Grandparent Permission Form for Aquatic Center Passes
Item #3.4
Quale stated the Parks and Recreation Division has received several requests over the years to allow grandparents to purchase season passes for their grandchildren at the reduced resident rate to the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center based on the grandparent's Bloomington residency. Staff proposes amending the 2015 fees and charges schedule to create Resident Grandparent season pass rates to allow grandparents to purchase resident rate season pool passes for their grandchildren, 2 – 15 years of age. A Grandparent Purchase Authorization Form for Bloomington Family Aquatic Center season passes has been reviewed and approved by Legal and was included in Commissioner packets. This request will go forward to City Council on June 1, 2015. L/Schmitz, M/Holm to approve the new Resident Grandparent rates for youth season passes at the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center. The motion carried 7-0.

2016 – 2021 Metro Regional Parks CIP
Item #3.5
Quale stated Metropolitan Council staff have requested that the Metropolitan Regional Park implementing agencies submit their prioritized 2016 – 2021 Metro Regional Park CIP project list by May 31st. This request comes every two years and covers projects to fund over the next six years. The 2016 – 2017 funding request includes Park Reserve land acquisition reimbursements and partial funding to reconstruct parking lots within the Park Reserve. The 2018 – 2019 funding request covers partial funding to reconstruct parking lots within the Park Reserve and the 2020 – 2021 Funding Request is for partial funding to reconstruct Tierney's Woods trail. All recommended projects have been listed before and the projects are all within the CIP approved by the City Council in April. Pending Council approval, the 2016 – 2021 funding request will be submitted to the Met Council. McCarthy inquired if work on the parking lots included the updated lighting requirements, which Quale confirmed. P/Moe, J/McCarthy to approve a recommendation to Council to approve the 2016-2021 Metro Regional Parks CIP funding request as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

Minnesota River Valley Master Plan Update
Item #4.1
Quale stated the draft Minnesota River Valley Master Plan Update was presented to PARC on April 8th and the Planning Commission on April 9th. The City Council received a Minnesota River Valley Master Plan overview at the May 11th study meeting.

Quale stated a public Open House on this Plan will take place on June 17th in the Council

Chambers from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Two additional stakeholder meetings will take place on June 9th and June 11th. The draft Minnesota River Valley Master Plan will be placed on the website next week and will include a short survey for the public to share their priorities. Once public comments have been received, a final draft of the Plan will be compiled and brought back to the PARC, Planning Commission and City Council for review and eventual approval.

It is hoped all public input will be collected by August; however, additional time may be needed. This may cause the joint meeting with PARC and the Planning Commission scheduled for August 6th to be pushed back to September. A definite notice for this joint meeting will be given at the July PARC meeting.

Quale opened the floor for questions, and Schmitz asked about locating an access point at Overlook Drive. Quale stated seeking an easement at this location may be studied in the future.

Quale stated he continues to seek feedback on the Minnesota River Valley Master Plan.

2015 Cultural Arts
Organization Funding
Program Update

Item #4.2

Quale stated City Council has directed the Cultural Arts Funding Review Panel to distribute approximately \$160,000 in funds to Bloomington-based arts and cultural organizations in 2015. This panel includes representation from residents, people with arts programming experience, City staff and a member of the PARC. The panel will meet the week of May 18th, with panel recommendations going to City Council for consideration at the June 1st meeting. M/Holm, L. Schmitz to approve Marie Holm to be the appointed PARC representative on this panel. The motion carried 7-0.

Alternative
Transportation Plan
Update

Item #4.3

Quale reported the Alternative Transportation Plan (ATP) Update document was presented at the April 27th City Council meeting. Council has asked Staff to:

1. Resolve discrepancies in the projected costs listed in the draft ATP Update document for trails in the Minnesota River Trail Corridor.
2. Remove the Bush Lake shoreline trail adjacent to Izaak Walton Road.
3. Incorporate maintenance plans and costs for trails into the ATP Update.

Quale stated once the above concerns have been addressed and reviewed with Council, a final version of the ATP Update document will be presented to Council. This may occur in July.

Park Improvement
Projects Update

Item #4.4

The Commission reviewed the Park Improvement Projects update highlighting the Red Haddox Baseball Field Improvements, the Normandale Lake Park Parking Lot Reconstruction, the 2015 Park Improvements Projects, the Valley View Playfield Tennis Courts, the Smith Park/8201 Park Avenue Improvements, the Normandale Lake Bandshell Bike Racks, the Bicycle Repair Stations and Future Project Planning. Quale stated he was pleased with the price bid for the Valley view Playfield Tennis Courts. The contracts are

completed for this project, and construction could begin as early as next week. The Contractor has 45 days to complete the project from the start date. Rickert inquired about the Bicycle Repair Stations, and Quale confirmed they will be posts with a rack to place and secure a bike, with tools for the bike and an air pump being part of the structure. Similar Stations have been placed along Minneapolis and St. Paul trails over the last few years.

City Council Action
Pertaining to Parks and
Recreation

The Commission reviewed the City Council action pertaining to Parks and Recreation from the Regular Meetings on April 6th, April 20th and May 4th.

Item #5.1

Park and Recreation
Manager's Report

The Commission reviewed the Parks and Recreation Manager's Report. Quale highlighted the InterCity Regional Trail Project, the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation Project, and the Normandale Water Quality Improvement Project. In addition, the Report states workgroups (including various Parks and Recreation and Human Services staff) are beginning work on implementation of the Metropolitan Council's recently approved Thrive MSP 2040 comprehensive plan. In relation to the Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project, G. Holm stated a step-type of dam was built, with the DNR filling the first step with rock to prevent carp from jumping up the dam. The rock in the first step has deteriorated, and G. Holm requested this be improved as part of this project. Quale stated this request will be shared with Public Works.

Item #5.2

Staff Recommendation
to Hold May 27th Study
Meeting for Park Tours

Quale stated Park Tours will take place on May 27th at 5:30 p.m. Haeg Park has been added to the list of parks to tour. Dinner from Jimmy John's will be provided, and Commissioners completed order forms for their meals.

Item #6.1

Staff Recommendation
to Cancel June 10th
Regular Meeting

D/Rickert, P/Moe to cancel the June 10, 2015 regular meeting of the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission. The motion carried 7-0. Quale stated the next PARC regular meeting will be July 8th.

Item #6.2

Joint Meeting with
Planning Commission on
August 6th

Quale stated a joint meeting with the Planning Commission on August 6th is pending, based on the public comments received on the Minnesota River Valley Master Plan. Confirmation of this joint meeting will be given at the July 8th regular PARC meeting.

Item #6.3

2015 NRPA Congress
Commissioner
Attendance

Quale stated the 2015 NRPA Congress and Exposition will be held in Las Vegas, NV September 15th – 17th at the Mandalay Bay Resort. There is sufficient funding for two PARC members to attend the congress. The plan is to fly in to Las Vegas on September 14th and return home on Friday, September 18th. There may be an option to fly to Las Vegas on

Item #6.4 September 13th, if someone is interested in attending an off-site institute or workshop on September 14th. M/Holm, L/Schmitz to approve Commissioners James McCarthy and Peter Moe to attend the 2015 NRPA Congress and Exposition. The motion carried 7-0.

Sub-Committee Member Needed for Richfield Bloomington Watershed Management Organization Quale stated the Richfield Bloomington Watershed Management Organization needs a Sub-Committee Member from PARC. P/Moe, L/Schmitz to approve Commissioner Dave Rickert be appointed to the Sub-Committee, with Commissioner Marie Holm providing back-up. The motion carried 7-0.

Item #6.5

Approval of Minutes – April 8, 2015 M/Holm, L/Schmitz to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2015 Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission meeting. The motion carried 7-0.

Item #7.1

Approval of Minutes – April 22, 2015 L/Schmitz, B/Murphy to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2015 Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission meeting. The motion carried 7-0.

Item #7.2

Community Center Needs Assessment Inquiry (not on agenda) Schmitz inquired about the status of the Community Center Needs Assessment. Quale stated it was presented to City Council, and no action has been taken at this point. Quale stated the Bloomington Charter Commission has met to look at amending the City Charter to allow the City to sell bonds for the purpose of the City to perform capital improvements. This would create another funding source for major projects.

Adjournment P/Moe, J/McCarthy to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Item #8

Heather Lambert

Recording Secretary