



MINUTES

Parks, Recreation and Environmental Commission

October 6, 2021 City Hall

Upstairs Conference Room, 6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Johnson.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Commissioners Gary Bank, Kristin Hicks, Matt Johnson (Chair), Julia O'Rourke, Michael Spooner, and Charles Warner.

Members Absent: Commissioners Ahmed Abdiwahed, Pauline Alfors, Amelia Kuiper.

Also Present: Director Jennifer Fink and Council Member Emily Dunsworth.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Bank, seconded by Warner to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Bank, seconded by Hicks to approve the September 1, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

V. Business Items

A. 2022 Planning – Jennifer Fink, Director of Parks and Recreation

Director Fink led a conversation to talk about work planning for 2022, which included sharing information about the number of meetings that will need to be dedicated to park projects. She asked if the Commissioners had any specific topics that they would like to discuss in the coming year.

Councilmember Dunsworth discussed how the Council would like to work more collaboratively with its Commissioners and hear the issues the City should be completing in the coming year.

Discussion included:

- The Commission supported discussing park facilities in 2022 in order to address sustainability and other initiatives for each park building.
- The Commission supported discussing community art in 2022. Councilmember Dunsworth noted the Equity Commission would also be addressing placemaking in the community.
- The Commission supported the City looking into connectivity with its bike trails throughout the community.
- It was noted staff would be bringing forward a discussion on additional adaptive and inclusive services at a future meeting.
- The Commission recommended sustainable landscaping and native plants also be pursued for the City within its parks.
- The Commission thanked staff for providing the group with a great list of ideas for PREC to address in the coming year.

VI. Announcements

A. City Council Report – Council Member Emily Dunsworth

Councilmember Dunsworth provided the Commission with an update from the City Council. She discussed the work the Council has been doing to create an Equity Statement and Equity Commission. She reported the City Council was now taking applications for Commissioners interested in serving on this Commission. She explained the Council recently received a very informative presentation from Metro Transit.

B. PREC Chair Updates – Matt Johnson

Chair Johnson thanked staff for all of their efforts on behalf of the community. He explained he has enjoyed attending the farmers market at the community center this summer.

C. Department Happenings and Upcoming Events – City Staff

Director Fink stated project meetings had begun with WSB for the park project at Hansen Park. She reported staff received a Shade Tree grant that would assist with Ash tree removal in the City. She invited the PREC Commissioners to attend Tails on the Trails at Hansen Park on Sunday, October 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. She explained a pumpkin walk was being planned for Saturday, October 30. She noted the Public Safety Department would be hosting an Open House on Monday, October 25. She commented over MEA weekend a City-wide garage sale would be hosted throughout the community. She then reviewed the number of rounds of golf that have been played at the Brightwood Hills Golf Course.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Bank, seconded by Spooner to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Fink". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Fink
Director of Parks and Recreation