

AGENDA

Parks, Recreation and Environmental Commission (PREC)

In-Person Meeting with Public Electronic Access

August 4, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

City Hall Upper Level Conference Room

- **Attend the meeting in Person:** Members of the public may attend the meeting in person. Attendees who are not vaccinated are encouraged to wear masks and comply with social distancing parameters.
- **Watch the meeting electronically:** To observe the meeting electronically, visit www.newbrightonmn.gov or tune into CTV Channel 8023 (CenturyLink) or Channel 16 (Comcast).
- **Join the meeting electronically:** If you need to interact with our elected officials or staff but are not comfortable attending the meeting in person, you may join the meeting electronically. Visit: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86807375776?pwd=WnV6NFFsOGZHQ1VoK2lubmZZNm5UT09> (no app needed) or use your Zoom app to join by entering: Meeting ID: 868 0737 5776 and Passcode: 082910

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair Matt Johnson | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Amelia Kuiper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice-Chair Michael Spooner | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Kristin Hicks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Ahmed Abdiwahed | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Julia O'Rourke |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Pauline Alfors | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Charles Warner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner Gary Bank | <input type="checkbox"/> City Staff Members |

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. Approval of the June 2, 2021 Minutes

V. Business Items

A. Home Energy Audits – Jennifer Fink, Director of Parks and Recreation

B. Midtown Village Playground Name Discussion – Jennifer Fink, Director of Parks and Recreation

VI. Announcements

A. City Council Report – Emily Dunsworth, City Councilmember

B. PREC Chair Updates – Matt Johnson, Chair

C. Department Happenings and Upcoming Events – City Staff

VII. Adjournment



MINUTES
Parks, Recreation and Environmental Commission
June 2, 2021 City Hall
Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Johnson. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this meeting was held virtually.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Commissioners Ahmed Abdiwahed, Pauline Alfors, Gary Bank, Amelia Kuiper, Matt Johnson (Chair), Julia O'Rourke, Michael Spooner, and Charles Warner.

Members Absent: Commissioner Kristin Hicks

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

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Bank, seconded by Abdiwahed to approve the agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 8-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Bank, seconded by Spooner to approve the May 5, 2021 minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 6-0-2 (Commissioners O'Rourke and Warner abstained).

V. Business Items

A. Facility/Park Naming Policy Draft for Recommendation – Jennifer Fink, Director of Parks and Recreation

Director Fink stated staff has assembled a number of examples of park naming policies. Those examples provided best practices language to incorporate into a draft naming policy. It was noted feedback from PREC and the City Council has been incorporated into this draft document. Staff reviewed the draft policy in further detail with the Commission and requested comments or questions.

Discussion included:

- The Commission recommended the language that addressed naming parks after historical persons be revised.
- The Commission suggested a morality clause be considered within the policy. It was noted the City would always have the right to rename parks if not in conformance with City policy.

Motion by Bank, seconded by Spooner to recommend the City Council approve the Facility/Park Naming Policy. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 8-0.

B. Midtown Village Playground Engagement Results and Recommendation – Jennifer Fink, Director of Parks and Recreation

Director Fink stated the Midtown Village development will include a small park. This park will be open to the public, and not just for residence of the Midtown Village development. Staff shared the results of the resident engagement process, and reviewed the questions and feedback that came from the public during the engagement process.

Discussion included:

- The overall cost for the park playground structure (\$80,000) was discussed with the Commission.
- The accessibility concerns for this park were addressed. It was noted staff explained to residents that Lions Park was a fully accessible playground.
- It was noted this was a relatively small park and it would be difficult to make this park fully accessible.
- The Commission suggested benches be placed outside the play area.
- The Commission thanked staff for the public engagement process that was pursued for this project. It was recommended staff consider other ways to engage minority populations in the community.

Motion by Bank, seconded by Abdiwahed to recommend the City Council purchase and install the playground design from MN-WI Playground. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 8-0.

C. July Meeting

Director Fink reported City meetings would be held back at City Hall beginning in July. She anticipated the July meeting would be canceled but the group would meet in person in August.

VI. Announcements

A. City Council Report – Council Member Emily Dunsworth

Councilmember Dunsworth provided the Commission with an update from the City Council. She explained the Council held a worksession this week and discussed how to implement and fund the Parks Comprehensive Plan. She reported there was unanimous approval from the Council to bond for \$10 million in order to move this plan forward. Director Fink discussed the six parks that would be improved through the \$10 million bond issuance. The draft concept plans for Sunnyside Park, Creekview Park, Hansen Park, Totem Pole Park, Silver Oaks, and Lions Park were reviewed with the Commission.

Councilmember Dunsworth commented further on how this project would be a visible use for tax dollars and will enhance the livability of the community. She thanked staff and the PREC Commission for all of their efforts on the Parks Comprehensive Plan.

Councilmember Dunsworth explained the City Council voted last week to create a new Commission that would focus on diversity, equity and inclusion. She reported the Council would be taking

applications for this Commission later this summer. Director Fink reported the City would be hiring a DEI Coordinator to assist with this initiative.

B. PREC Chair Updates – Matt Johnson

Chair Johnson commended the City Council for moving forward with the Parks Comprehensive Plan.

C. Department Happenings and Upcoming Events – City Staff

Director Fink congratulated Commissioner O'Rourke on the birth of her new baby. She discussed the vaccine clinics that were held at the Community Center every Wednesday noting the Pfizer vaccine would be offered for the next two weeks, which meant those 12 and over could attend the clinic. She noted memberships and usage at the Community Center were on the rise after having the mask mandate lifted. She explained the golf course has been extremely busy already this year. She discussed the new programming staff was working on for this fall, which included ethnic cooking. She encouraged residents to consider visiting the farmer's market every Wednesday at the Community Center.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Bank, seconded by Warner to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 8-0.


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



Agenda Section:	V
Item:	A
Report Date:	07/29/2021
Commission Meeting Date:	08/04/2021

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Home Energy Audits
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S APPROVAL: Jennifer Fink, Director of Parks and Recreation 
CITY MANAGER'S APPROVAL:
No comments to supplement this report ____ Comments attached ____

Recommendations: ▪ Comment on proposed program that would offer discounted home energy audits for residents.

History: ▪ Commission and City Council have expressed interest in advancing sustainability and energy efficiency throughout the City.

Financial Impact: ▪ Approximately \$5,000

Summary: ▪ The mission of the Center for Energy and Environment is to "discover and deploy the most effective energy solutions that strengthen the economy and improve the environment." In order to accomplish that, one of the services that the Center for Energy and Environment offers is a Home Energy Audit. After experiencing this first hand, staff reached out to CEE. A number of cities "buy down" the cost of these audits for residents.

Staff will show an example report, along with information about the process to gain feedback and a possible recommendation to staff and Council about the program.

Attachments: ▪ None



Jennifer Fink, CPRP

Director of Parks and Recreation



Agenda Section:	V
Item:	B
Report Date:	07/29/2021
Commission Meeting Date:	08/04/2021

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Midtown Village Park Name Discussion
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S APPROVAL: Jennifer Fink, Director of Parks and Recreation
CITY MANAGER'S APPROVAL:
No comments to supplement this report ____ Comments attached ____

Recommendations: ▪ Review the Park Naming Policy and suggested park names, making a recommendation for two or three to be provided to the public for engagement and voting.

History: ▪ Commission reviewed the Park Naming policy at both the May and June 2021 meetings, recommending a policy to Council in June of 2021
▪ Council approved the Park and Facility Naming policy at the July 13, 2021 meeting.

Financial Impact: ▪ None

Summary: ▪ City staff engaged the public in a solicitation of names for the Midtown Village playground. Those names are included, along with staff recommendations for ones that adhere to the Park and Facility Naming policy. Staff will facilitate a discussion on the options provided, for resident input.

Attachments: ▪ Naming policy
▪ List of potential names

Jennifer Fink, CPRP

Director of Parks and Recreation

What is your suggested park name?	Please share your reasoning for this name if will help us in decision making:
The Avalan / Avalan Park	
39ers Park	As this development is on the former site of the New Brighton School, which had its cornerstone placed in 1939, the name is to honor that school and its history and importance on previous generations of residents.
Trump park	President
Among Us park	It is a very welcoming name that gives off the sence of a community.
BrightOn!	
Parky McParkface	Classic
Donald J. Trump Park	45th President of the USA
Compassion park	
Fetrow Flora Frontier	
New Brighton elementary	Name of former school
Grey Duck Park (at Midtown Village)	A cheerful play on the duck duck grey duck nursery rhyme
Mdewakanton Park	To honor the Tribal community that cared for this land before we took it from them.
Midtown Peace Park	Midtown for location, Peace as a main theme to the park. Local artist murals or sculpture art on peace, peace garden, a peaceful seating area meant for conversation, etc.
Midtown Park	
Brighter side park	The name going very nice with new Brighton and leaves you with a happy out look on the park itself
Midtown Community park	The park is asking you to gather in midtown park. "Community"
Bright side Park	Bright is for Brighton and side reminds me of the school I used to go to. It is a nice name and inviting
New Community park	It's a new development and community development
New Community park	It's a new development and community development
Bomber Park	Previously the site was the New Brighton Elementary School. The New Brighton Bombers was the mascot name
Michael Walker Park	In memory of the old park maintenance supervisor who passes away
Center 7th park	Its in the middle of the city, and its at the end of 7th st nw
Walwal park	It has a good ring to it.
Centennial-Tricenary	New Brighton was officially incorporated in 1891. The suggested name is to signify how the city has grown over the past 130 years. Centennial meaning 100 and Tricenary meaning 30, both derived from the Latin language.

Town Park	It's part of Mdtown
Donald Trump Memorial Gardens	Think controversial figure who will have few if any things named after him.
Lady's Slipper	State flower - no controversy
Gold Rush Park	In reading about our city of New Brighton on Wikipedia, I found out that "In the 1920s, a local farmer said he heard a rumor that gold bars were buried along the eastern shore of Long Lake by bootleggers. This rumor spread and in the following years launched a mini "gold rush" along Long Lake to find the treasure."
Glacier Park	I learned from wiki that the terrain of New Brighton was primarily created by the movement of glacial plates.
Squash Park	In reading about the history of NB, I learned that in October 1929 we had our first Squash Show, showcasing squashes grown by residents.
Elmer L. Swanson Park or Swanson Park	People associate the location of the Midtown development with the old New Brighton School building which was built in 1939. It would be a memorial to the school that so many have fond memories of attending. Elmer L. Swanson was the first principal of New Brighton school in 1939. A plaque could be put in the park as a remembrance of the school where so many New Brighton residents got their start.
Centre-ville Park	French for midtown
Stockyard Park	The park is located in NB which was once a thriving stockyard town. Have a plaque put up with a historic photo of the New Brighton stockyards that helped build NB to be the thriving community that it is today.
Midtown Park	It identifies where the park is located.
Crossroads Park	The park is located at the crossroad of 7th St and 8th Ave
Bomber Park	The mascot of the former Elementary School on the site was New Brighton Bombers
Schoolhouse Park	It is on the site of the previous New Brighton Elementary Schoolhouse.
Popcorn Park	Beacuse I like popcorn
Midtown Mini Village	Because it is located in Midtown
Lilli Park	Beacause its my name
Rhubarb Park	NB Fruit!
New brighton school park	
Dragon Park	
Dream Park	
Eagle Park	Eagles Nest, and my favorite bird

Progress Park	In 1939, the New Brighton Elementary School was built by the Works Progress Administration. WPA put thousands of people to work and spurred the economy through the New Deal. Play on old and new history.
Dakota or Ojibway Park	Land on which New Brighton was founded was Dakota and Ojibway land. (From the Historical Society website - "The Dakota (also referred to as the Sioux) and the Ojibway (commonly known as the Chippewa) came through the area on rice harvesting treks, eventually locating near Long Lake at Rice Creek. Many artifacts have been found in this location including bones, pieces of pottery, pipes and arrowheads."

Name Suggestion	Does it meet the Naming Policy Criteria
39ers Park	Yes
Among Us park	Yes
BrightOn!	Yes
Parky McParkface	Yes
Compassion park	Yes
Fetrow Flora Frontier	Yes
New Brighton elementary	Yes
Grey Duck Park (at Midtown Village)	Yes
Mdewakanton Park	Yes
Midtown Peace Park	Yes
Midtown Park	Yes
Brighter side park	Yes
Midtown Community park	Yes
Bright side Park	Yes
Bomber Park	Yes
Michael Walker Park	Yes
Center 7th park	Yes
Walwal park	Yes
Centennial-Tricenary	Yes
Town Park	Yes
Lady's Slipper	Yes
Gold Rush Park	Yes
Glacier Park	Yes
Squash Park	Yes
Elmer L. Swanson Park or Swanson Park	Yes
Centre-ville Park	Yes
Stockyard Park	Yes
Midtown Park	Yes
Crossroads Park	Yes
Bomber Park	Yes
Schoolhouse Park	Yes
Popcorn Park	Yes
Midtown Mini Village	Yes
Rhubarb Park	Yes
New brighton school park	Yes
Dragon Park	Yes

Dream Park	Yes
Eagle Park	Yes
Progress Park	Yes
Dakota or Ojibway Park	Yes
The Avalan / Avalan Park	Unknown
Trump park	No
Donald J. Trump Park	No
New Community park	No
Donald Trump Memorial Gardens	No
Lilli Park	No



Home Energy Squad

Jennifer Fink




Background


- The Home Energy Squad is a joint program offered by Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy to help customers reduce energy use.
- To qualify for a visit, you must be a Minnesota residential electric customer of Xcel Energy and an Xcel Energy or CenterPoint Energy natural gas customer.
- Service area is limited to where crews are available. You pay Home Energy Squad for all services. Charges may not be added to your existing utility bill. Other restrictions may apply.




What is a Home Energy Audit?

- **Virtual Visit/Pre-Visit Consultation**
 - A **free** online interaction with energy experts
 - A pre-visit questionnaire to share concerns and interests in advance
 - Virtual audio/video home walk-through with energy experts
 - A customized report with recommendations and next steps
 - Once your virtual visit is complete team, will help you take next steps. For some, it could be an in-home visit, for others connection to energy advisors who can assist with upgrades, financing, and more.
- 


Energy Saver Visit (\$70 cost - \$200 value)

- A two-person team will come to your home
 - Install energy-saving materials such as: LED lightbulbs, door and attic hatch weather stripping, programmable thermostat, and high-efficiency water fixtures.
 - Assess and adjust water heater temperature
 - Determine next steps
- 

Energy Planner Visit (\$100 cost - \$600 value)

- Recommended for homes built before 2000.
 - A two-person team will come to your home
 - Install energy-saving materials such as: LED lightbulbs, door and attick hatch weather stripping, programmable thermostat, and high-efficiency water fixtures.
 - Assess and adjust water heater temperature
 - Perform a blower door test to measure your home for air leaks
 - Complete an insulation inspection of your attic and walls using an infrared camera
 - Perform a safety test on your home's heating system and water heater
 - Determine next steps
- 

Next Steps

- If your home has an opportunity for significant savings through larger home improvement projects such as additional insulation, attic air sealing, or replacing old heating equipment—advisors make these larger steps easy by connecting with a vetted list of qualified contractors, specialized financing, and utility rebates.
 - Assist in scheduling visits from contractors
 - Help navigate rebate opportunities
 - Special Loan Programs
- 

How can the City partner with Home Energy Squad?


- Many Cities offer discounted rates for these audits.

(<https://www.mncee.org/home-energy-squad?cities-with-reduced-costs>)

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| • Bloomington | • Minnetonka |
| • Brooklyn Center | • Mounds View |
| • Brooklyn Park | • New Hope |
| • Burnsville | • Plymouth |
| • Columbia Heights | • Richfield |
| • Edina | • Roseville |
| • Fridley | • St. Louis Park |
| • Golden Valley | • St. Paul |
| • Hopkins | • Woodbury |
| • Mahtomedi | |
| • Minneapolis | |

- This is the language used:
“Thanks to your City's contribution, Energy Saver visits are only **\$35** and Energy Planner visits are **\$50.**”

Agreement Details

- City Staff have been told that if we moved forward with an agreement with the Minnesota Center for Energy and Efficiency, to anticipate 1-1.5% of the city's qualifying homes (1-4 units) to participate in the first year of partnership.
 - Data shows that there are ~ 6,000 housing units in New Brighton, so planning for 60-90 households would be realistic - depending on marketing and outreach efforts.
 - At a cost of \$35-50 per household that would be \$2,100 - \$4,500 dollars.
 - Would be a way to directly impact residents energy consumption in a way that saves them \$.
- 



Questions?

Jennifer Fink

Director of Parks and Recreation

Jennifer.fink@newbrightonmn.gov