

## AGENDA

### Parks, Recreation and Environmental Commission (PREC)

#### **In-Person Meeting with Public Electronic Access**

**September 1, 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 required to wear masks and comply with social distancing parameters regardless of vaccination status.
- **Watch the meeting electronically:** To observe the meeting electronically, visit [www.newbrightonmn.gov](http://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 August 4, 2021 Minutes**

#### **V. Business Items**

- A. Census Data** – Jennifer Fink, Director of Parks and Recreation
- B. Equity Statement Engagement Opportunity** – Devin Massopust, City Manager
- C. Midtown Village Playground Name Update** – Jennifer Fink, Director of Parks and Recreation

*\* A quorum of the City Council may be present.*

**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**

**August 4, 2021 City Hall**

**Council Chambers 6:30 p.m.**

#### **I. Call to Order**

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

#### **II. Roll Call:**

Members Present: Commissioners Ahmed Abdiwahed, Pauline Alfors, Gary Bank, Kristin Hicks, Amelia Kuiper, Julia O'Rourke, Michael Spooner, and Charles Warner.

Members Absent: Chair Matt Johnson

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

#### **III. Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Warner, seconded by O'Rourke to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Alfors, seconded by Bank to approve the June 2, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

#### **V. Business Items**

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

Director Fink stated 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 showed an example report and described an energy planner visit, along with providing information about the process to gain feedback and a possible recommendation for staff and Council about the program.

Discussion included:

- The Commission supported the Council offering Home Energy Audits to homeowners.
- The Commission encouraged staff to consider how these audits would be advertised to the community.
- It was noted the funding for this type of program would be considered and determined by the City Council.
- The Commission encouraged staff to consider how to offer this program to multi-family rental units.

Motion by O'Rourke, seconded by Hicks to recommended the City Council pursue a Home Energy Audit program for New Brighton residents. Motion carried 8-0.

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

Director Fink stated 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 facilitated a discussion on the options provided and requested feedback from the Commission on how to proceed.

Discussion included:

- The Commission shared their top two or three favorite names from the list of qualified park name suggestions.
- The history of rhubarb in the community was discussed.
- Midtown Peace Park, Rhubarb Park and Brightside Park were the three favorite names based on the Commission's discussion.
- Staff cautioned the Commission from pursuing the Peace Park name because there would not be elements of meditation or art within this park.
- Councilmember Dunsworth explained she supported the Schoolhouse Park name also being considered given the history of the site.
- The Commission suggested interpretive signage be posted in the park in order to define or assist in explaining the park name.
- The final three names that would be brought to the Council for consideration was Schoolhouse Park, Rhubarb Park and Brightside Park.
- The Commission recommended the three names have an accurate description before being brought to the public for further consideration.

**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 local state of emergency ended on June 22. She commented the Council recently approved \$9.78 million in tax abatement bonds for the Parks Master Plan. She discussed the numbers from National Night Out and thanked all who contributed to the local food shelf through food, school supply and monetary donations. She explained a

member of the City Council and staff was available for comments or questions at the farmer's market every Wednesday. She indicated the *Star Tribune* would be writing an article on the City's Parks Master Plan. She commented beginning August 9, 2021 masks would be required again in all New Brighton buildings for individuals ages 3 and up. She provided the Commissioners with an update on the DEI Commission.

**B. PREC Vice Chair Updates – Michael Spooner**

Vice Chair Spooner stated he had no update at this time.

**C. Department Happenings and Upcoming Events – City Staff**

Director Fink stated Brightwood Hills had the busiest month in history in July. She thanked Ken Manthis and Anne Wigdahl for all of their efforts at Brightwood Hills. She discussed the success of the City's summer and fall sports programming. She commented beginning August 9, 2021 masks would be required again in all New Brighton buildings for individuals ages 3 and up and encouraged Commission members to spread the word that the City was following CDC guidelines. She discussed the new Civic Plus program with the Commission and noted the Eagle's Nest has been busier in the past few weeks. She indicated the City would be removing 450 Ash trees and noted these trees would be replaced through grant funding the City received.

**VII. Adjournment**

Motion by Bank, seconded by Warner to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. 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 large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jennifer Fink  
Director of Parks and Recreation



Agenda Section:	V
Item:	A
Report Date:	08/26/2021
Commission Meeting Date:	09/01/2021

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

**Recommendations:** ▪ Receive an update from staff on the preliminary data released about the 2020 Census results.

**History:** ▪ None

**Financial Impact:** ▪ None

**Summary:** ▪ City staff will present regional and local data from the newly released Census data.

**Attachments:** ▪ None

Jennifer Fink, CPRP  
*Director of Parks and Recreation*

<b>Agenda Section:</b>	<b>V</b>
<b>Item:</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Report Date:</b>	<b>08/26/2021</b>
<b>Commission Meeting Date:</b>	<b>09/01/2021</b>

<b>ITEM DESCRIPTION:</b> Equity Statement Engagement Opportunity
<b>DEPARTMENT HEAD'S APPROVAL:</b> Jennifer Fink, Director of Parks and Recreation
<b>CITY MANAGER'S APPROVAL:</b>
<b>No comments to supplement this report</b> ____ <b>Comments attached</b> ____

**Recommendations:** ▪ Receive information from City staff regarding the City's work with Culture Brokers, regarding the creation of an Equity Statement, Framework and Action Plan.

**History:** ▪ An Inclusive Community Taskforce was created in 2018 with the purpose of creating recommendations around making New Brighton an inclusive and welcoming community. They provided recommendations to the Council regarding areas of improvement within the City.  
▪ The City Council approved the addition of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator in the 2021 budget. Along with that, the Council approved the creation of an Inclusive Community Commission.

**Financial Impact:** ▪ None

**Summary:** ▪ Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) work is not just a priority of the City Council or a response to cultural and societal pressure. Ensuring all residents are served and treated equitably is a key function of local government and intentional work in this area is important to the success of the City. The City is working to set up a governance structure and management function that helps the City achieve equity now and into the future.

The outcome of these efforts will be focused on structural changes including policy, practices and built in environments that support individual and social efforts.

There is a current draft of the Equity Statement and Framework available for residents to comment on. It is available on the City's website -

<https://www.newbrightonmn.gov/equity>. The City encourages everyone to visit the site, read the materials, and provide feedback on the statement proposed.

**Attachments:** ▪ None

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Fink". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a thin horizontal line.

Jennifer Fink, CPRP

*Director of Parks and Recreation*





<b>Agenda Section:</b>	<b>V</b>
<b>Item:</b>	<b>C</b>
<b>Report Date:</b>	<b>08/26/2021</b>
<b>Commission Meeting Date:</b>	<b>09/01/2021</b>

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

**Recommendations:** ▪ Receive an update from staff on the status of the engagement on the three park name options.

**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.  
▪ PREC chose three names for City-wide engagement at the August, 2021 meeting.

**Financial Impact:** ▪ None

**Summary:** ▪ City staff engaged the public in a solicitation of names for the Midtown Village playground. Those names were narrowed down to the top three names that adhered to the Park and Facility Naming policy. Staff engaged the public in ranking the choices

**Attachments:** ▪ Naming policy  
▪

Jennifer Fink, CPRP  
Director of Parks and Recreation