



MINUTES

Parks, Recreation and Environmental Commission

January 5, 2022 City Hall

Council Chambers 6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call:

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

Members Absent: Commissioner Amelia Kuiper.

Also Present: Jody McDevitt - Energy Management Solutions, Director Jennifer Fink, and Director Craig Schlichting.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Bank, seconded by Warner to approve the agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 7-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner O'Rourke requested a change on Page 2 stating the comment to Mr. Suggs should encourage him to leverage with the groups at Irondale and Mounds View.

Motion by O'Rourke, seconded by Bank to approve the December 1, 2021 minutes as amended. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 7-0-1 (Commissioner Warner abstained).

V. Business Items

A. Presentation from Community Assets and Development on 2022 Initiatives and Projects – Craig Schlichting, Director

Director Schlichting provided the Commission with a presentation on the projects that would be completed in 2022. He discussed the plans for Old Highway 8, along with commenting on the private development plans for TUV SUD, Midtown Village and US Bank. The plans for Robin Lane were reviewed. He then noted a representative from Energy

Management Solutions was in attendance and had a presentation for the Commission regarding Electric Charging Stations.

Jody McDevitt, Energy Management Solutions (EMS) representative, introduced himself to the Commission. He commented on the City's sustainability efforts which included an electric vehicle charging station program. He estimated the sale of electric vehicles would overcome the sale of gas vehicles in 2038. He commented on how this shift would impact property owners and municipalities in order to provide enough charging stations. He reported Carbon Solutions Group was offering a no cost electric vehicle charging program that would provide charging stations to the City of New Brighton with revenue streams. It was noted the charging stations could be co-branded and would provide an attractive amenity for the community. He noted the term for the proposed EV stations would be 10 years. He described how Carbon Solutions would be working to partner partnering with municipalities to get charging stations into communities. He commented on the communities Carbon Solutions Group was already working with in the metro area.

Director Schlichting reviewed a map of the City of New Brighton noting the locations that were proposed to have electric vehicle charging stations in the future. He explained staff would be walking each park and visiting each City facility in order to see how many parking stalls could be designated for charging stations. He discussed the electric vehicles the City would be pursuing. Staff commented further on the proposed agreement with EMS and Carbon Solutions and requested the Commission make a recommendation to the City Council to consider entering into an agreement for a City wide EV program.

Discussion included:

- The Commission complimented staff for their efforts on Old Highway 8.
- Staff described how park dedication fees are paid by developers.
- The timeline for the US Bank property redevelopment was discussed.
- The Commission asked several questions regarding how the electric charging stations operated.
- The importance of having proper EV infrastructure in place was discussed.
- Chair Johnson expressed concern with the fact a single private entity would be gaining from the charging stations that were located on City property.
- The Commission thanked staff for the detailed presentations.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Bank to recommend the City Council consider entering into a contract with EMS and Carbon Solutions Group for City wide EV project. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 8-0.

Director Schlichting commented on the renovation plans for the Public Works/Parks Maintenance Building. He indicated this project would also include improvements to the stormwater ponding just south of the proposed addition. He reported the City would be applying for a grant with the Rice Creek Watershed to assist with funding the stormwater ponding improvements.

Motion by Alfors, seconded by Spooner to recommend the City Council accept grant(s) if received to assist with the design and construction of a stormwater treatment area on the Public Works Maintenance property. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 8-0.

Director Schlichting discussed the concerns that have been voiced regarding the need for a crosswalk on Innsbruck Drive. He commented on how staff determines how and when mid-block crosswalks are considered. He reviewed the number of vehicles that use Innsbruck Drive each day along with the accident history. He stated the proposed crosswalk would be on a curve but the area was well lit. Staff requested the Commission consider making a recommendation that the City Council add a crosswalk on Innsbruck Drive in the summer of 2022 with pedestrian ramps, zebra crosswalk striping, signage, delineators and crosswalk flags.

Discussion included:

- The expense of the crosswalk flags was discussed and the Commission supported the City piloting this program for this crosswalk.
- The Commission suggested a flashing beacon be considered for safety purposes. Staff noted this was being considered for 2026.
- The Commission appreciated staff working on this because this was an unsafe area for pedestrians to cross.

Motion by Bank, seconded by Sokol-Kraft to recommend the City Council consider installing a crosswalk along Innsbruck Drive in the summer of 2022 per staff's recommendation. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 8-0.

Director Schlichting reported the City of New Brighton has an opportunity to have street art this summer. He explained this project would be in coordination with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) who would be holding a gathering for 15,000 youth. He noted the participants would be in the City and surrounding areas on July 25 through July 27. Staff was proposing to have these students work three to four hours each morning in groups of 20 to 50 to provide street art in New Brighton. He indicated this art would assist with creating a sense of place for the intersections or parks that were chosen. Staff requested the Commission make a recommendation to the City Council directing staff to work with volunteers, the DEI coordinator, schools, neighbors and artists to plan for potential street art.

Director Fink discussed how valuable the mural was to the City that was completed on the Community Center.

Discussion included:

- The Commission asked where the street art would be located and staff noted this was yet to be determined.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Bank to recommend the City Council direct staff to work with volunteers, the DEI coordinator, schools, neighbors and artists to plan for potential street art, to direct staff to hold a collaborative meeting with the EDC on sense of place

initiatives, and for the City Council to consider a budget for the paint and artist involvement. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 8-0.

VI. Announcements

A. City Council Report – Council Member Emily Dunsworth

Councilmember Dunsworth was not in attendance to provide a report.

B. PREC Chair Updates – Matt Johnson

Chair Johnson encouraged New Brighton residents to get out and enjoy the City's parks and ice rinks.

C. Department Happenings and Upcoming Events – City Staff

Director Fink reported the Council discussed a three year contract with CPY at their worksession meeting on January 4. She explained the vaccination clinics have ended at the Community Center. She then discussed the number of visitors the NBCC had in 2021. She thanked the community for contributing to the City's scholarship fund. She stated the ice castles would be coming to Long Lake Park again in January of 2022.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Bank, seconded by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 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.

Jennifer Fink
Director of Parks and Recreation