



**South St. Paul
Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Minutes of May 13th, 2025
City Hall**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting was called to order by Ms. Miller at 6:01 p.m. at South St. Paul City Hall.

Members Present:, Kendra Sommerfeld, Cretia Radman, Sadie Patet, Lori Miller, Nicole Hall, Josh Regan

Members Absent: Rich Dippel

Others Present: Shannon Young, Colin Trudgeon, Pam Bakken

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Joe Atkins introduced himself as the Couty commissioner. Nikki Geisler introduced herself to the group as she will be presenting to the commission.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Radman and seconded by Ms. Sommerfeld to approve Minutes of April 8th, 2025.
6 Yays 0 Nays

3. OLD BUSINESS

3A. Aquatic Pool Feasibility & Design Update

Ms. Young shared an update that they presented the survey results to the council on 5/12. Northview was the 1st choice, Jefferson was the 2nd choice, and Lorriane was the 3rd choice. There were discussions and it was decided that Northview would be the site for the new aquatic facility. Following that discussion, the commission was tasked with finding options the Lorraine pool open space.

3B. Recreation Program Updates-

Mr. Trudgeon provided updates on recent events, highlighting the success of both the Egg Hunt and the Color Run, which benefitted from excellent weather this year. He also discussed upcoming events and summer programming, including the debut of a new event, **Pickleball with Police**, scheduled for the end of the month. Additionally, Mr. Trudgeon shared information on pool staffing, t-ball, and summer camps, as well as new fitness offerings led by Heather.

3C. Doug Woog Arena Updates-

Ms. Young reported that there was an ammonia alarm at the arena on the previous Sunday, prompting an evacuation. Fortunately, the issue was swiftly addressed. Mr. Wilcox, the Arena Manager, was on-site and effectively coordinated with all teams and the tournament director to ensure the event stayed on schedule and continued smoothly — even on Mother's Day.

3D. CIP Updates-

Ms Young shared that starting 5/14 the parking lot at Kaposia Park's parking lot will be repaved. Ms. Young noted that she is awaiting the designs for Grandview and Summit.

3E. Commissioners Park Assignment Updates –

Ms. Sommerfeld shared she was at Simon's ravine, and they were doing some piping work. Mrs. Young shared they were replacing a broken drainage pipe that comes from Butler Ave.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4A. Dakota County Presentation –

Ms. Young opened the discussion by introducing Niki Geisler, who presented an update on the Parks, Greenways, and Natural Systems Vision Plan for the counties. Niki outlined long-term strategies aimed at achieving the plan's goals over the next 20 years, particularly concerning park and greenway development. She emphasized the significant role community engagement has played in shaping the vision, which has also been shared with neighboring cities to gather broader regional input. The team is aiming for the plan's approval this June.

Niki noted that while the plan lays out an ambitious vision, none of the proposed actions are guaranteed to occur — but emphasized that no progress can be made unless these initiatives are formally included in a long-term plan. Findings from the community engagement process revealed demographic insights, including age, race, income, and gender data, which are being considered in the planning process.

The vision framework is composed of 15 goals. Key examples include fostering a deeper relationship between nature and the community, identifying park locations that are accessible to more residents, and protecting natural areas and recreational assets.

Ms. Miller questioned whether they have begun a prioritizing process to ranking which areas need more attention. Ms. Geisler shared that this is not something they have begun, but will be an important next step. She also shared that there was a study done in 2020 that helped identify areas that benefit from conservation efforts.

Mr. Atkins mentioned a potential collaboration between the City of South St. Paul, Dakota County, and West St. Paul to designate Thompson Park and Kaposia Park as a regional park, which could unlock additional state funding.

Ms. Geisler also shared that they are hoping to offer more nature based recreation programming along greenways in city parks. Some examples of those spaces or fishing piers, nature play areas, and overlooks. They also want to connect trail loops to local greenways, to give access to as many people as possible to these greenways.

Finally, Mrs. Radman asked about the reliability of future funding in the event of such collaborations. Ms. Geisler explained that, historically, parks funding has remained relatively stable compared to other county-funded programs.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

6. ADJOURNMENT – Next Meeting: June 10th, 2025, @ City Hall Training Room.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Miller first by Ms. Sommerfeld and second by Mr. Regan at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Colin Trudgeon