



**South St. Paul
Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Minutes of November 12th, 2025
City Hall**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting was called to order by Mr. Dippel at 6:00 p.m. at South St. Paul City Hall.

Members Present: Rich Dippel, Josh Regan, Cretia Radman, Lori Miller

Members Absent: Sadie Patet, Kendra Sommerfeld, Nicole Hall

Others Present: Shannon Young, Heather Flock, Colin Trudgeon, Pam Bakken, Jason Wilder, Kelsey Gelhar

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Young introduced City Engineer Kelsey Gelhar, who was promoted to the role earlier this year. Ms. Gelhar provided an overview of several projects she is currently working on. Ms. Radman asked about Ms. Gelhar's involvement in the Hardman Triangle project, and Ms. Gelhar explained that her role focuses primarily on the project's detailed engineering components rather than its conceptual development or planning.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Dippel, first by Mr. Regan and seconded by Mr. Dippel to approve Minutes from October 14th, 2025.

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3. OLD BUSINESS

3A. Aquatic Pool and Feasibility Study & Design Update

Ms. Young reported that the City partnered with JLG to complete a feasibility and pre-design study for the Northview Pool. She added that the City Council has approved a proposal with JLG Architects to move forward with design services for the next phase of the Outdoor Aquatics Facility at Northview Park.

3B. Recreation Program Updates

Ms. Flock shared details about upcoming events and programs, including Breakfast with Santa, and Skate with Santa. Breakfast with Santa will be on Saturday, 12/13. Skate with Santa will be on Sunday, 12/14. Flannel Fest will be in January. Ms. Flock shared that there are plans for concert on the parks in the summer.

3C. Doug Woog Arena Updates

Ms. Young the rink is busy and up and running.

3D. CIP Updates

Ms. Young shared the Lorraine playground, Northview Pool, Kaposia Park ballfield renovations, Summit Park Basketball court replacement, Kaposia Landing dog park fence and Doug Woog Rooftop HVAC units will be potential 2026 CIP projects pending approval with the City Council.

3E. Wakota Trailhead/DNR Boat Landing Update

Ms. Young shared photos of the DNR boat launch renovations being underway. Ms. Young shared city staff was given very short notice of their arrival and acted quick to get the information out to the community.

3F. Commissioners Park Assignment Updates

No reports.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4A. Flight Deck Disc Golf

Mr. Dippel introduced Jason Wilder, who provided an update on disc golf activity and operations at the course. Mr. Wilder noted that participation has dipped slightly since the COVID period, but reported that in October the course ranked as the 94th most visited in the world. Since April, the course has generated approximately \$57,000 in revenue. He added that recent course improvements have been well received, and that the facility hosted the Masters tournament over the summer, drawing more than 1,100 players. Mr. Wilder also shared that the course is highly regarded nationally based on feedback from visiting disc golfers, and he observed that about half of the world's top 100 courses operate on a pay-to-play model.

In response to questions about usage, Mr. Wilder stated that roughly 750 season passes have been sold, and that from May through September the course averages more than 1,000 daily passes per month, equating to about 250–300 per week. He identified a key challenge as the pay-to-play structure and the course's difficulty level, which may limit appeal for more casual players. Addressing maintenance and course conditions, Mr. Wilder explained that overgrowth and erosion in the gorge area—particularly related to buckthorn—are the most significant issues. He noted that staff are evaluating solutions and plan to implement erosion-control measures by next year.

Mr. Wilder further commented that disc golf lacks a consistent youth development pipeline compared to other sports. To help build youth engagement, he expressed interest in developing a smaller, nine-hole “pitch and putt” course designed for younger players. He also shared that a Kaposia Disc Golf Course logo has been created, with plans to sell branded merchandise to support fundraising for future course projects.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

6. ADJOURNMENT – No meeting in December. Next Meeting: January 13th, 2025, @ City Hall Training Room.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Dippel, first by Mr. Regan and second by Ms. Miller 7:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Colin Trudgeon