

1 CITY OF ST. ANTHONY  
2 PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING  
3 December 5, 2022  
4 7:00 p.m.  
5

6 **I. CALL TO ORDER.**  
7

8 Chairperson Niemi called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
9

10 **II. ROLL CALL.**  
11

12 Commissioners Present: Chair Niemi, Commissioners Bordeau, Doolan, and Godmare.  
13

14 Absent: Commissioner Guest.  
15

16 Also Present: Student Liaison Fiona Barquero-Raivo, Mr. Dan Kunitz, Public  
17 Works Director Jeremy Gumke, Finance Director Shelly Rueckert,  
18 and City Manager Charlie Yunker.  
19  
20

21 **III. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2022 PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL**  
22 **COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA.**  
23

24 Motion by Commissioner Bordeau, seconded by Commissioner Doolan, to approve the  
25 December 5, 2022 Parks and Environmental Commission agenda.  
26

27 **Motion carried unanimously.**  
28

29 **IV. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 REGULAR PARKS AND**  
30 **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.**  
31

32 Motion by Commissioner Bordeau, seconded by Commissioner Godmare, to approve  
33 September 12, 2022 Regular Parks and Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes as  
34 presented.  
35

36 **Motion carried unanimously.**  
37

38 **V. PRESENTATIONS.**  
39

40 **A. Citizens for Sustainability Updates**  
41

42 Mr. Dan Kunitz updated the Parks & Environmental Commission with the Citizens for  
43 Sustainability activities. The following are the requests for Climate Action in the 2023 Goals:  
44

- 45 1. Pass a Climate Emergency resolution
- 46 2. Create Energy and Climate Action Plans
- 47 3. Expand the solar installation on Central Park pavilion rooftop.
- 48 4. Install a public charging station in a public space.
- 49 5. Initiate outreach to promote energy and water reduction.

1  
2 Mr. Kunitz reviewed the Cities with Climate Emergency Resolutions and also the Cities with  
3 Energy and Climate Action Plans. Mr. Kunitz has a draft resolution he can submit to the City  
4 for review.

5  
6 Inquiries have been made with the Apartment Recycling Contact for Hennepin County. There  
7 are two grants available to multi-family property owners that will open in February 2023.  
8 Hennepin County would provide a bin at properties awarded the grants. Municipal drop-off  
9 sites would be another possibility for organics recycling.

10  
11 Commissioner Doolan asked about a study done by an intern as to recommendations for  
12 charging stations within the City. Mr. Yunker stated he is not aware of that. Staff has  
13 researched grants available.

14  
15 Chair Niemi asked who pays for installation of charging stations and Mr. Kunitz stated they  
16 are privately owned.

17  
18 Commissioner Doolan asked about priority #5. Commissioner Doolan stated she will be going  
19 into the schools to provide information on a water conservation poster contest and if anyone  
20 would like to join her they are welcome to do so.

21  
22 Mr. Kunitz stated Citizens for Sustainability is hosting a book discussion on January 31, 2023  
23 at 7:00 p.m. The location is TBD. The book to be discussed is Catherine Hehoes “Saving Us  
24 a Climate Scientist Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World”.

25  
26 **VI. COMMISSION REPORT.**

27  
28 Commissioner Doolan stated she did an assessment of emissions from the regional indicator  
29 and copies were provided to the Commissioners.

30  
31 Chair Niemi stated he and some of the Commissioners attended the work session last Tuesday  
32 with the City Council and the Planning Commission. It was very informative.

33  
34 **VII. STAFF REPORTS – NONE.**

35  
36 **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

37  
38 **A. Parks Budget and CIP**

39  
40 Finance Director Shelly Rueckert reviewed the Financial Overview. The inputs for the plan  
41 were Annual Goal Setting Work Session. The venue for City Council, Parks and  
42 Environmental Commission Representative and City Staff to discuss possible improvements  
43 in park operations, maintenance needs, amenities, etc. Other inputs included the PEC  
44 workplan and a joint meeting between the City Council and the Commission.  
45

1 Ms. Rueckert reviewed the Budget Calendar. She noted Commission items are included in  
2 various budgets as:

3  
4 General Fund – Primary location of Park and Environmental operating costs.

5 Parks personnel costs - \$242,000

6 Supporting ISD recreation programming - \$52,000

7 Energy costs - \$32,000

8 Supplies and other operating costs - \$56,000

9 Sustainability programming - \$10,000

10 Clean-up day, other recycling events, fix-it clinics, rain barrels - \$8,000

11 Salo Park CAM charges - \$17,000

12  
13 Total General Fund costs \$417,000

14  
15 Parks and Environmental Commission items are also included in various budgets as:

16  
17 Capital Improvement Fund – Replacement of parks maintenance equipment.

18 Fleet Costs – 2023 \$0 / Five years - \$56,000

19 Heavy Equipment/Mowers costs – 2023 \$120,000 / Five years \$106,000

20 Other Equipment – 2023 \$7,000 / \$62,000

21  
22 Building Improvement Fund

23 Park Shelters 2023 \$9,000 / \$112,000

24  
25 Stormwater Fund – Stormwater operating and capital costs

26 Stormwater/Flood mitigation 2023 \$220,000 / Five years \$170,000

27 Water Quality – 2023 \$68,000 / \$365,000

28  
29 Total Capital Funds costs – 2023 \$304,000 / Five years \$871,000

30  
31 Sources for the Park Improvement Fund include: parkland dedication fees, donations &  
32 grants, park improvement levy, transfers, and interfund loans.

33  
34 Park Improvement Funds are used for athletic facilities & playground structures, park shelters,  
35 splash pads, and trail construction.

36  
37 Improvements for 2023 include Silver Point Park playground equipment and Skateboard Park  
38 surface restoration.

39  
40 The WSB Park Evaluations were reviewed with priorities. The Overall Park and  
41 Environmental Spending was reviewed.

42  
43 Ms. Rueckert reviewed the 2023/2024 Parks CIP Process to prioritize components within  
44 WSB's park evaluation report.

45  
46

- Park Commission recommends dates/date ranges for improvements.

- 1           • Staff will use Commissions guidance as to dates for CIP timing.
- 2           • Staff will gather costs estimates.
- 3           • Staff will draft 2024 preliminary CIP for PEC review and edits.
- 4           • Long-term funding plan will be discussed.
- 5           • PEC will provide any additional inputs to the 2024 Parks Improvement Budget.

6  
7 Commissioner Doolan asked where would expenses for environmental activities come from? Ms.  
8 Rueckert stated it could be included in other inputs in June. A climate action plan would come from  
9 the General Fund as it is more administrative in nature.

10  
11 Chair Niemi asked where the monies from rental fees for park shelters go and Ms. Rueckert stated  
12 since Community Services handles they get the funds.

13  
14           **B.     2023 Draft Work Plan**

15  
16 City Manager Yunker reviewed the written draft work plan for the Commission. This will be  
17 discussed at goal setting.

18  
19 Commissioner Doolan asked if the citywide parks cleanup can be broader “Continue community  
20 collaboration to enhance St. Anthony greenspace including a Spring City-wide parks clean-up,  
21 increasing pollinator plantings around the City, City Hall and Silver Point’, Partner with the Garden  
22 Club.

23  
24 Commissioner Godmare asked if the Commission is asked to prioritize the items and City Manager  
25 Yunker stated generally the Commission is able to touch on the entire list.

26  
27 Commissioner Bordeau suggested the last one on the list be reworded to read “Climate Emergency  
28 Resolution and Climate Action Plan”.

29  
30 Commissioner Doolan asked if the verbs can be changed to be more action-oriented. “Develop clear  
31 direction for “No Mow May” campaign. Include website information and signage. Commissioner  
32 Bordeau suggested there be an if/then statement if the Commission decides to endorse.

33  
34 Chair Niemi stated we do not want to put aside the WSB survey results. “Evaluate and identify  
35 priority recommendations of park evaluation”.

36  
37 Commissioner Godmare suggested timing be included for discussion at quarterly Park and  
38 Environmental Commission meetings.

39  
40 Commissioner Doolan asked what the purpose of the park walk-through is and Chair Niemi stated to  
41 familiarize the Commission with the parks and see what improvements are recommended in each  
42 park. The WSB survey will be referred to.

43  
44 City Manager Yunker stated in the past the Commission did not show a concern for pickleball courts  
45 and the suggestion was to remove it from the list.

Parks and Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2022

Page 5

1 Commissioner Doolan suggested “explore ideas brought to the Commission such as dog parks to  
2 show commitment to hearing residents.” Commissioner Doolan suggested pickle ball be revisited at  
3 some point. Chair Niemi stated the tennis courts at the well has no parking or amenities.

4  
5 Commissioner Doolan asks who hosts the Sustainability Fair. The Citizens for Sustainability had  
6 hosted it one year. She noted goal #2 could be achieved by hosting the Sustainability Fair.

7  
8 Commissioner Bordeau suggested “Education and outreach in conjunction with community  
9 organizations to promote use of the organics drop off, and residents who have taken energy action”.

10  
11 Commissioner Doolan stated it would be interesting to have residents who have installed solar  
12 systems come to a workshop to speak with other residents as to what they did. This could be  
13 communicated by the City Staff and collaborated with Citizens for Sustainability.

14  
15 Commissioner Bordeau suggested “waste management, water conservation and energy conservation”.

16  
17 Commissioner Doolan suggested a survey be done to see where citizens are riding their bikes. It was  
18 suggested years ago that a bike and walking plan be developed. City Manager Yunker stated there is a  
19 Kiwanis bike map so a transportation bike map may be needed.

20  
21 Commissioner Bordeau stated she would like to see something included for environmental justice.  
22 Commissioner Doolan asked if that would be included in the Climate Action Plan.

23  
24 Commissioner Doolan asked if a verb is needed in the last bullet point “Climate Action Plan”. City  
25 Manager Yunker stated if the Commission feels it is important to have a Climate Action Plan in 2023  
26 and the City Council agrees it could be done in 2023. “Create” should be used. Commissioner  
27 Doolan has heard of smaller cities collaborating together and hiring a consultant rather than each city  
28 hiring their own.

29  
30 Commissioner Bordeau asked if a Green Corp Member could be used again and Mr. Yunker stated  
31 the City has tried to obtain one. There is nothing specifically the Commission could do to help get a  
32 Green Corp Member. There were many more Cities applying to get one and not enough Green Corp  
33 Member. St. Anthony has had 3 in the past years.

34  
35 Mr. Yunker asked about the Tree Canopy program and Chair Niemi stated it is out of the  
36 Commission’s hands. Mr. Yunker stated the suggestion was for a tree sale. Commissioner Godmare  
37 suggesting including a tree sale in the Sustainability Fair. Commissioner Doolan suggested support  
38 the expansion of the tree canopy program.

39  
40 Commissioner Bordeau asked about Emerald Ash Borer and is that something the Commission  
41 should be involved with. Chair Niemi stated the removal and treatment of the affected trees is very  
42 expensive. Mr. Jeremy Gumke stated there are no residential options for grants. Chair Niemi asked  
43 how many trees are affected in the City and Mr. Gumke stated 45 trees were removed and 50 trees are  
44 being treated. There is no way to financially support the residents on treatment or removal of trees.  
45 Trees offered by Hennepin County could be promoted through the Commission.

46

1 Mr. Yunker suggested all three groups be included in the tree initiatives.

2  
3 Commissioner Doolan stated she reached out to the vendor to get an additional CDA for increasing  
4 the number of solar panels at Central Park. Commissioner Bordeaux asked how much power can be  
5 gained from the plan. Commissioner Doolan stated in October 782 kwh were consumed and the  
6 panels produced 66 kwh (2 panels). This will be added to the work plan. "Explore the addition and  
7 cost benefit of solar panels".

8  
9 Commissioner Bordeaux suggested adding installation of car charging stations. Commissioner Doolan  
10 stated the private company provides the capital equipment and maintenance and the City provides the  
11 space. Mr. Yunker stated that is already in process. This will be added to the work plan.

12  
13 Commissioner Doolan asked if there were plans for surveying the community about park use. Mr.  
14 Yunker stated the dedicated funding source is just being developed. Chair Niemi stated the parks get  
15 used a lot especially during the summer.

16  
17 Commissioner Doolan asked if measurements can be started on the comprehensive plan goal. Could  
18 metrics be created for the long-term goal.

19  
20 Mr. Yunker stated the goals session will be held January 25-26-27, 2023 in the mornings. One  
21 representative from the Commission is invited to attend.

22  
23 Commissioner Doolan referred to the WSB survey for parks. She reviewed the June materials and the  
24 picnic shelter was missing from Silver Point and Central Park and Trillium Park is missing totally.

25  
26 **VIII. COMMUNITY FORUM.**

27  
28 No one appeared to address the Commission.

29  
30 **IX. ADJOURNMENT.**

31  
32 Chair Niemi adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

33  
34  
35  
36 Respectfully submitted,  
37 Debbie Wolfe

38 *TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.*