

CITY OF ST. ANTHONY
PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 10, 2025
7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairperson Fee called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL.

Commissioners Present: Chair Lily Fee, Commissioners Yaacoub Hark, Kristen Peterson and Jessica Swiontek.

Absent: Commissioner Natalie Synhavsky

Also Present: Assistant City Manager Ashley Morello, Silverwood Program Supervisor Alyssa Baguss, Citizens for Sustainability Representative Dan Kunitz, Coordinator Minette Saulog, and Student Liaison Cece Cram.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 10, 2025, PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA.

Motion by Commissioner Swiontek, seconded by Commissioner Hark, to approve the March 10, 2025, Parks and Environmental Commission agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2024, REGULAR PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES.

Chair Fee noted on page five, lines 15 and 16, her last name was misspelled.

Motion by Commissioner Swiontek, seconded by Commissioner Hark, to approve the September 23, 2024 Regular Parks and Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes as revised.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. PRESENTATIONS.

A. Silverwood Park Updates.

Silverwood Program Supervisor Ms. Alyssa Baguss reviewed a PowerPoint presentation. Our Built Environment by Angela St. Vrain will be on display March 13 – April 30, 2025 with the Opening Reception held Thursday, March 13th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Light Over

Boundary by Allegra Lockstadt will be displayed March 13 – April 30, 2025, with the Opening Reception held Thursday, March 13th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

International Sculpture Day will be held Saturday, April 26, 2025, with a Tour of the Sculpture Trail from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. with Silverwood Staff. Attendees can make their own sculpture with artists Angela St. Vrain and Allegra Lockstadt from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. This event is free to the public for all ages and skill levels.

The St. Anthony Village Puzzle Showdown was held February 23, 2025.

Earth Day Clothing Swap: Reduce, Reuse, Restyle will be held on Sunday, April 27, 2025, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Silverwood Park in partnership with St. Anthony Village Community Services.

Ms. Baguss reviewed the 2025 Silverwood OnStage Summer Concerts in the Park. The concerts are held on Wednesdays 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., beginning on June 11, 2025. Mixed Precipitation: Theater Company will present The Pickup Truck Opera on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Registration is now open for Summer Camp. Register online or over the phone:

www.threeriversparks.org 763-559-6700.

Stay connected with the Arts in the Parks e-newsletter. Read about exhibition or performance happening across the Park District. Learn about upcoming programs and events to engage with art and nature. Hear what artists have been up to since working with us in the Parks. Sign up at www.threeriversparks.org.

Pre-registration is required for Sound Meditation with Thomasina and Bob Fisk of Waking Nomad on Sunday, April 6, 2025, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Designed to an introduction to the practice – all abilities welcome. Features 60 minutes of guided movement and breathwork followed by 60 minutes of sound meditation. Benefits include increased awareness and reduced tension.

Silverwood Park Café Winter Hours are 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Enjoy local and organic coffee drinks, kombucha on tap and baked goods. 50% student discount, weekdays from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Memorial Day hours will change to 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Open Houses for the Silverwood Rental Facilities are held the First Monday of the Month from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Reservations are not available through 2026. For up-to-date calendars and rental information, contact silverwoodevents@threeriversparks.org.

Chair Fee asked where the leftover clothing goes after the clothing swap and Ms. Baguss stated leftovers are taken to Savers. Clothing is only accepted the day of the clothing swap.

B. Citizens for Sustainability Update.

Citizens for Sustainability Representative Dan Kunitz presented an update of their activities including Earth Week, Environmental Stewardship Scholarship, Sustainable St. Anthony and Energy Action Plan Feedback.

2025 Earth Day Park Cleanup will be held April 26, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The hope is to partner with student groups and local organizations and to plan a week of activities. Some ideas include Fixit Clinic, Student driven event, Clothing Swap, Waste reduction, Solar Power Showcase, Composting Workshop, Plant a Tree, and Bike to School Day.

Residents are invited to join the Citizens for Sustainability Committee in rewarding student commitment with 2025 Environmental Stewardship Scholarships in recognition of their commitment to environmental stewardship and to honor their energy and passion to make a difference.

Mr. Kunitz reviewed efforts to create a Sustainable St. Anthony. Centralize SAV stories about what people do to make a difference (articles, videos, blogs). Partnership with CFS, PEC, and Minette Saulog. Ask students for help collecting and producing stories (Media team, AP Computer Science, Green Team, NHS). The Critical Success Factors include:

- Capture collective energy.
- Easy process/production.
- Simple Stories.
- Tech plugin.
- Broad reach (newsletters and social media).
- Calendar of events.

Mr. Kunitz stated he participates in the Partners in Energy Program.

Chair Fee suggested a group of people participate in the clean-up around Silver Lake as well as Silver Lane along the berm.

Commissioner Swiontek suggested the ball teams help clean up the fields. After the snow is gone there is a lot of trash that needs to be cleaned up. Chair Fee stated clean-up is done but it's not normally coordinated with the City-wide clean-up day. Chair Fee will reach out to the head coach to see when they are planning to do the field clean-up.

Student Liaison Cram left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Kunitz noted generally families are involved with the cleaning of the parks. Students at the schools were also contacted to help.

VI. COMMISSION REPORTS.

Commissioner Yaacoub Hark introduced himself.

Chair Fee stated in January she attended portions of the City's goal-setting sessions. At the sessions, she presented the PEC's Work Plan. The Water Poster Conservation Contest was

held this year with awards being presented at the last City Council meeting. The Park Summit is on Wednesday.

Commissioner Swiontek stated she enjoyed the poster competition and speaking with the students.

Commissioner Peterson introduced herself.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS.

A. Energy Action Plan Review

Sustainability Coordinator Minette Saulog reviewed the City started participating in Partners in Energy in the spring/summer of 2024 and hosted a series of three planning workshops with a community Energy Action Team from July – November. These meetings allowed the City to receive feedback and input for the creation of an Energy Action Plan that would align with the Climate Plan's Energy Section. Ms. Saulog presented a PowerPoint draft of the Energy Action Plan. The plan is to present an updated draft to the City Council at a work session in late March. Adoption of the final draft by City Council is anticipated in early April. Once adopted, an implementation period will begin with the support of Partners in Energy, along with opportunities to partner closely with the Parks & Environmental Commission for outreach and engagement.

The purpose of the Energy Action Plan include:

- Developed in collaboration with Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy.
- Follow-up to the City's Climate Plan (adopted 2023)
 - Four focus areas: Energy, Transportation, Water and Waste.
 - Progresses or updates the energy related action items.
- Energy Action Plan Impacts.
 - Saving energy in homes, buildings and public spaces.
 - Saving money community-wide through participation in utility programs.
 - Increasing renewable energy support to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Equitably serving all residents and businesses with community-based energy actions.

The Vision of the Energy Action Plan is St. Anthony Village prioritizes energy actions that support residents and businesses, improve resiliency, and make our community a more sustainable place. The Goal is St. Anthony Village will reduce energy-related greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2040.

Ms. Saulog reviewed Focus Areas:

- Energy Efficiency – Improves efficiency of homes, businesses and public facilities.
- Renewable Energy – Increase support of renewable energy in St. Anthony Village.
- Electrification – Increase the adoption of electric appliances and equipment in homes and buildings.

Energy Efficiency Goal:

- Residential – Increase residential energy efficiency savings by 75%, resulting in 2.1 million kwh and 652,000 therms saved from 2025-2030.
- Commercial – Increase commercial energy efficiency savings by 50% resulting in 19 million kWh and 1.8 million therms saved from 2025-2030.

Ms. Saulog reviewed Energy Efficiency Strategies and Actions. The renewable energy goal is:

- Residential – Increase residential participation in Xcel Energy renewable energy programs by 3% annually.
- Commercial – Increase commercial participation in Xcel Energy renewable energy programs by three participants annually.

The Renewable Energy Strategies and Actions were reviewed in detail with strategy, tactics, leader and timing. The Electrification Goal is 10 residential participants annually in Xcel Energy electrification programs. The Complete Energy Action Plan was provided for Commission review. The Plan will be presented to the City Council on March 25, 2025, and on the April 8, 2025, agenda for adoption.

Commissioner Hark asked what the plan is for solar panels on municipal facilities. Ms. Saulog stated there is a grant program “Solar on Public Buildings”. An application was submitted for the public works building and the water treatment plant. The City awarded 60% for these two buildings along with 30% in federal monies available. The City will only pay 10% for the cost. The plan is to get the projects completed in 2025. Commissioner Hark asked if there is a plan to expand to other facilities. Ms. Saulog stated there are factors such as raingardens, roof needing replacement, etc., which would prohibit rooftop solar being installed.

Chair Fee thanked Ms. Saulog for the great work on the plan. She asked if one timeline could be developed showing all actions. Commissioner Swiontek stated there is a roadmap in an appendix of the plan. Ms. Saulog stated it is located in Appendix A.

Commissioner Hark asked if the City is planning on any sort of incentive plans for other projects. Ms. Saulog stated the concept of an incentive plan is included. She has had discussions about how projects could be funded. She has connections with other sustainability staff in other cities and will research what they have done.

Commissioner Peterson noted she liked strategy #11 and suggested it be added to energy efficiency and renewable energy section. She also suggested a database be developed of residents who have done projects that could be contacted by other residents with questions. She noted projects were not called out for schools and asked if they would be included in the municipal facilities. Ms. Saulog stated the City has a history of partnering with schools. The schools fall under a different jurisdiction and would be considered part of the wider community. The developer the City is dealing with has also had projects in schools in other cities. Commissioner Peterson stated she loved the refrigerator magnet strategy. Ms. Saulog will speak with Partners in Energy about adjustments.

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Commissioner Swiontek stated it is nice to have information available and the magnets would be good to have when residents are having to deal with appliances.

Additional comments from the Commission should be sent to Ms. Saulog.

Assistant City Manager Morello referred to the roadmap that was put together. Ms. Morello described that the PEC work plan had been developed into a roadmap, outline planned discussions throughout the year. PEC work sessions will be scheduled in April and May. Commissioners are asked to provide any conflicts on their calendars in April and May.

Ms. Saulog stated the Park Summit is March 12 and all PEC Commissioners are invited to attend. The Annual Rain Barrel program will be starting on April 1st and will be sold for \$100 to 15 residents. It is first come, first served. The Private Property Infiltration Grant Program is being offered made possible by the Met Council Environmental Service Group. This program assists with repairs to the lateral sewer line. This program opens on May 1st. More information can be found on the city website.

Commissioner Swiontek referred to the Broken Link project and noted it is difficult to get from Stinson Parkway to the diagonal trail with a stroller. This could be a possible way to garner support for the Broken Link Project.

VIII. COMMUNITY FORUM - NONE.

No one appeared to address the Commission.

IX. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Commissioner Swiontek, seconded by Commissioner Hark, to adjourn the March 10, 2025 meeting of the Parks and Environmental Commission at 8:30 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Wolfe

TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.