

APPROVED MINUTES

PARKS, RECREATION, AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
&
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2019

6:00 P.M. PRNR ONLY

6:30 P.M. BUS TOUR

7:30 P.M. JOINT MEETING

Heritage Rooms, 8080 Mitchell Road

PRNR COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Larry Link, Chair; Patrice Erickson, Vice Chair;
Cecilia Cervantes, Kim Harris, Andy McGlasson,
Leonard Pesheck, John Rahman, Ken Ross,
Kirk Spresser

**HERITAGE PRESERVATION
COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

Steve Olson, Chair; Tara Kalar, Vice Chair; Cheryl
Kessler, Valerie Ross, Shanti Shah, Pamela Spera,
Paul Thorp

CITY STAFF:

Jay Lotthammer, Parks and Recreation Director
Lori Brink, Recreation Manager
Matt Bourne, Parks and Natural Resources Manager
Valerie Verley, Community Center Manager
Lori Creamer, Planning Technician

PRNR STUDENT REPS:

Carson Guettler, Tatum Gunderson, John Hilton,
Nile Timmerman, Ananya Vegesna

HPC STUDENT REPS:

Joe Pesheck, Sydney Lewis, Neha Bhupatiraju

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Jodie Fenske

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Link called the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. PRNR Commission Members Cervantes and Harris were absent. All HPC Commission Members were present. All PRNR Student Representatives were present. HPC Student Representatives Lewis and Bhupatiraju were absent.

II. BUS TOUR

Staff, Student Representatives, and Members from both Commissions participated in a bus tour of two sites prior to the meeting being called to order.

A. MINNESOTA RIVER VISTA

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Construction was recently completed on a wayside viewing area overlooking the Minnesota River Valley, located at the end of Charlson Road. Bourne noted this wayside honors the history of Lookout Park Wayside, which is located just to the east of this project and is currently owned by the Metropolitan Airport Commission (MAC). The new area includes information about the old wayside park with interpretive signs that center around the history, the environment, and the location. Some of the stones from the old wayside park were incorporated into the new site.

B. RILEY LAKE PARK INTERPRETIVE SIGNS

The second stop on the bus tour was Riley Lake Park to view the new interpretive signs identifying three major themes: the Lake, the Land and the People. Lotthammer noted this project has taken several years and much of the work was made possible by grants obtained through Planning Technician Lori Creamer's efforts. Bourne stated the signs are laid out in such a manner to move patrons throughout the park.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Kalar moved, seconded by Rahman, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 14-0.

IV. JOINT MEETING DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. FLYING RED HORSE SIGN

Lotthammer provided a brief history of the sign for PRNR Commission members since HPC Commission members discussed the sign and viewed its current state at their April meeting. He displayed a PowerPoint presentation with photographs of the sign which was on top of the Flying Red Horse Mobil station from 1936 to 2008. The Schwartz family, who owned the Mobil station, donated the sign to the City in 2013. The City Council at the time accepted the donation but decided to preserve it in storage until such time a decision could be made where to place it and funds raised to display it properly. Council decided tax dollars would not be used but funds may be obtained through donations, grants, or other means.

Lotthammer's presentation showed photographs of the sign through the years, as well as its current condition. There are two versions of the sign, the original and a version with a metal overlay and neon lighting. Consultants will help determine the condition of both versions. He explained the role of the PRNR and HPC Commissions will be to make a recommendation in the future to the City Council after discussing the different levels of restoration and possible locations and reviewing the consultants' recommendations. He stated Staff will engage with both Commissions and the consultants, identify funding, and also present a recommendation to the Council. Lotthammer stated the level of restoration and

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location possibilities will be presented to the Commissions in a few months, after expert analysis.

Ross inquired and Lotthammer responded the Schwartz family's only expectations were to publicly display the sign. Pesheck raised concern about maintenance time and costs, including lighting. Lotthammer responded those issues will all be part of considerations in determining how to proceed. McGlasson inquired about placing the topic for public input. Lotthammer stated he prefers discussion start at the Commission level and if several options remained prudent, then possibly public input could be sought.

McGlasson inquired about possible locations. Lotthammer explained it would be ideal to find a location where the sign could be seen by more, rather than fewer residents. Possible locations previously discussed by the HPC included inside the Riley Barn or Eden Prairie Center mall. Another possible location is at the Southwest light rail Town Center Station where a plaza will be built. This spot would be close to where the original sign was located at the Mobil station. Park locations are possible, specifically the Round Lake Baseball Field.

Thorp spoke on the current condition of the sign. The historic version from 1935 was later covered with a skin using rivets so there are holes in the original sign. Wiring for neon was eventually added resulting in additional holes in the newer version. He estimates there is not much quality left in the original sign.

B. YORKVILLE/BLOOMINGTON TRAIL UPDATE

Thorp provided PowerPoint slides describing the length and location of the trail which still exists. The trail was originally the location of the Ox Cart Trail but a road was ordered to be built over it by the State in 1863. The road was abandoned fourteen years later due to erosion. Thorp stated the importance of knowing the location of the trail and ensuring it is preserved. Part of the property is owned by the City and other parts are owned by private property owners. The HPC is seeking nomination of a local designation of the City-owned portion. Creamer inquired and Lotthammer stated there are no development plans since the City portion of the trail is located in a conservation area.

C. ADDITIONAL DORENKEMPER HOUSE TOURS

Both Commissions discussed additional opportunities to bring people through the Dorenkemper House. Options included offering children tours during summer camps at Riley Lake Park, possibly lead by Historical Society volunteers sharing stories. Other than during the Fall Harvest Celebration, there are no other scheduled open times. Ginny Dorenkemper offers tours upon request. Olson inquired and Lotthammer responded there are no plans to create community gardens in front of the House. Creamer will discuss summer camp options with Nicole Weedman, Senior Recreation Supervisor, who leads the summer camp curriculum and scheduling. Brink added the Outdoor Center hosts a pioneer life

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camp and possibly bussing could be provided to those participants to tour the Dorenkemper House.

McGlasson inquired if field trips could be coordinated with the schools. Kalar responded she and Creamer researched the idea and determined a curriculum would need to be developed prior to the school considering it. Creamer added the schools are only allowed a limited number of field trips. Other ideas included a teacher development program being held at the House and a 3D tour of the House being provided to the schools.

D. PEOPLEFEST!

Shah provided an update on the event which will run from Sunday, August 4 to Wednesday, August 14, 2019. The Peoplefest! Party will be held on Sunday, August 11 with booths, food trucks, entertainment, and other activities. The focus is to engage as many different communities as possible within the City. Bus service to India Fest being held at the State Capitol is being planned.

E. FALL HARVEST CELEBRATION

Creamer stated there is interest within the HPC to partner with the Parks Department and participating in the Fall Harvest Celebration. Staff is working on the collaboration with the hope of adding games on the lawn near the Dorenkemper House, as well as other historical activities to enhance the celebration and draw attention to the House.

**COMMISSIONS SEPARATED FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION ITEMS – PARKS,
RECREATION, AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ITEMS TO FOLLOW**

V. MARKETING FOCUS GROUP

Prior to the bus tour, PRNR Commission members participated in a marketing focus group led by Michael Walsh from Michael Walsh Communications. Lotthammer explained Walsh has been working with Staff, and other groups including the Senior Advisory Council at the Senior Center, in determining how the City interacts with the public and what information the public wants to receive from the City. Walsh has assisted in creating an online community survey currently being circulated for input.

Walsh invited Commission members to discuss how they receive information from the City and how they would like to receive information, not only as Commission members, but as residents of the City. McGlasson stated the City is growing in population and in programs provided and it is difficult to consume all the information provided in the program guide. Ross stated he is able to obtain the information he wants by searching the City's website. He also obtains information from the Eden Prairie News.

Pesheck stated he finds himself being an advocate of City information in his personal circle of contacts. Student representatives stated they obtain information mainly through

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Instagram and Snapchat and rarely use Facebook. Rahman stated he obtains useful information via Facebook posts and appreciates when centerpiece items are highlighted in separate posts. Spresser added more targeted information, provided more often would be more beneficial than general information. Ross stated making sure interested parties know how to sign up for email alerts is important.

Lotthammer stated this topic will be brought back to the Commission, either for additional input or to provide an update on future steps.

VI. APPROVAL OF PRNR MINUTES

Motion: Pesheck moved, seconded by Erickson, to approve the March 4, 2019 minutes as presented. **Motion carried 7-0.**

VII. REPORT OF CITY COUNCIL ACTION

Lotthammer reported on actions recently taken by the City Council.

A. DONATION TO SENIOR CENTER

A Resolution was adopted accepting the donation of \$200 from Brookdale Senior Living towards the Veterans Breakfast at the Senior Center.

B. STARING LAKE BUILDING RECONSTRUCTION

Council awarded the Base Bid and Alternates 1 and 2 and authorized a contract with Ebert Construction for the Staring Lake Building Reconstruction Project.

C. STERLING FIELD HARD COURT

A contract was awarded to Plehal Blacktopping LLC for the Sterling Field Park hard court reconstruction project.

D. COMMUNITY CENTER PAVER PURCHASE

Council awarded a Purchasing Contract to Timberwall Landscape & Masonry Products, Inc. for the purchase of landscape pavers to be installed at the Community Center.

E. GEODECK SETTLEMENT

Council approved the Settlement Agreement and General Release with Liberty Diversified International, Inc. for the replacement of decking at the Staring Lake Park Amphitheater.

F. NATIVE PLANTING MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

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A Standard Agreement was approved for contracted services with Prairie Restorations, Inc. for the maintenance of native planting areas.

G. SUN CURRENT READER’S CHOICE AWARDS

Community Center Manager Verley presented Council with the Sun Current Reader’s Choice Awards received for “Best Recreational Center,” “Best Fitness Center,” and “Best Indoor Waterpark.”

H. ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

Mayor Case read a proclamation proclaiming April 26, 2019, as Arbor Day in the City of Eden Prairie, and urging all citizens to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands and to support our City’s urban forestry program.

I. COMMUNITY CENTER PLAZA INSTALL

Council approved a contract with Odessa II for pavers installation at the Community Center.

J. STARING BUILDING CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION

An agreement was approved with HTPO for construction inspection services for the Staring Lake Building project.

K. STARING LAKE IRRIGATION

Council approved a contract with Green Acres for the Staring Lake Park irrigation project.

VIII. REPORT OF PLANNING COMMISSION

IX. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATION

A. HANDOUTS OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Brink presented handouts of the following upcoming events.

- 1. Women’s One Acts.** The collection of short plays written and directed by women will be presented at the Riley-Jacques Barn on May 10, 17, and 18 at 7:30 p.m., on May 11 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and on May 19 at 2 p.m.
- 2. Arts in the Park.** This annual event will be held on Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Purgatory Creek Park. Artwork, live entertainment, concessions, art activities, food trucks, wine tasting, and lawn games will be available.

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X. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Lotthammer provided each member with a copy of the 2018 Parks and Recreation Annual Report, noting it is also available online. He urged Commission members to contact him with any questions after reviewing the report.

XI. NEXT MEETING

Lotthammer reminded members the City's Board and Commission Banquet will be held on Thursday, May 16, at 6 p.m. in the Garden Room

The next PRNR Commission Meeting will be held on Monday, June 3, at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. The lawn game plaza will be toured and a discussion of serving older adults will take place as part of the Park & Open Space Plan.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: McGlasson moved, seconded by Spresser, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried 7-0. Chair Link adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.