

Community Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting One

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Pesticide Advisory Committee Meeting

December 12, 2018 5:00 – 7:00pm
Board Room

PAC members present: Mike Lynch, Russ Henry (Chair), James Calkins, Jack Mackenzie, Kari Christianson, Janice Gepner, Danielle Tietjen, Luna Zeidner, Simba Blood, Vera Krischik, Alex Roth, Pat Kerrigan, Ellen Sones Christy Dolph and Patrick Kerrigan

Approximately 4 members of the general public attended the meeting.

Staff, commissioners, and speakers present:

Jeremy Barrick, (MPRB), Roberta Groening (MPRB), Chris Meyer (Commissioner) and Meg Forney (Commissioner)

1. Opening: 5:02 pm

The first Pesticide Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order on 5:02 pm by the Community Advisory Committee Chair.

2. Introductions

The PAC members were asked to introduce themselves, affiliation (if relevant) why are you here, and your favorite memory from a park. Themes included:

- Preservation
- Protection
- Organic Environment parks
- Concern for the amount and number of pesticides used in the parks

3. Ice breaker

Committee members were asked to divide into groups of three and share commonalities that did not include food or their physical appearance.

4. PAC Information and charge – Mission and Timing

Presenter: MPRB Staff

- a) Reviewed the PAC background information
- b) Reviewed MPRB mission and vision
- c) Reviewed MPRB board October 2018 moratorium that formed advisory committee
- d) Reviewed committee charge
- e) Reviewed composition
- f) Review of staff resources available to the committee
- g) Reviewed timeline

Committee members asked clarifying questions;

- 1) Long term responsibilities of the committee



- 2) Clarification on the charge of the committee' only responsibility is to make an initial recommendation to the board regarding Glyphosate
The Committee Chair confirmed the committee's charge and indicated that the committee had a two-year commitment and could therefore move forward with additional recommendations and work after the initial April 2019 report to the board.

5. MPRB Overview Information and Land Management Areas

- a) Review of Lands, facilities and programs
 - I. Golf Courses
 - II. Premier Athletic Fields
 - III. Natural Areas
 - IV. Gardens
 - V. Wildlife

6. Information on MPRB current practices around pesticides

Presenter: Staff Presentation

- a. Introduction
 - Staff reviewed the current MPRB current practices, definition of pesticides and current use practices of pesticides.
Staff clarified that forestry does not use pesticides unless a home owner applies for a permit to use pesticides on boulevard trees.
 - b. Fauna/animal control – MPRB manages when needed and only when it becomes a nuisance.
 - c. Flora –
 - i) MPRB is subject to Minnesota noxious weed law
 - ii) Staff reviewed the MPRB invasive species management practices
 - ii) Water – MPRB complies with all State water quality standards
- Staff reviewed the MPRB Glyphosate usage in 2017-2018 as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan.
 - Discussion: The committee membership had several questions regarding all types of pesticides used in the park system
 - What were the pesticides used for?
 - Question about posting requirements when pesticides have been in use
 - Question about the number of residents who have applied for permits to treat boulevard trees
 - Committee discussion on alternatives to 2,4-D
 - A Committee member suggested that the PAC also consider as part of their recommendation, chemical usage, applied safely when necessary as part of the committee's recommendations.
 - The Committee is interested in considering a formal checklist before MRBP moves from one form of invasive species management practice to the next.
 - The Committee membership is interested in receiving more frequent pesticide use updates more frequently than once a year.



- A committee member inquired about the inclusion and engagement of the indigenous community in healing the land
- The committee requested that staff share their power point presentation with the group.

7. Getting Started and Working Groups

Leader: Committee Member

Discussion;

A Commissioner addressed the group to clarify the moratorium put before the committee by the board;

- Part of the charge originated from the work of the late Commissioner Annie Young who was a strong advocate for removing pesticides from the park system
- The Commissioner reiterated that the board will be looking for advice and a plan from the committee based on their extensive level of expertise available from the membership

Another Commissioner in attendance summarized the October board moratorium in this way;

- The committee is charged with looking at ways to gradually reduce glyphosate in the MPRB system and produce an initial recommendation to the board by April 2019.
- The Commissioner indicated that this committee, with its blend of technical advisory and citizen advisory group was unique in that each commissioner appointed an individual and MPRB staff also recommended individuals to seat on the committee. The board will be looking for the committee's knowledge and experience to offer an opinion to the board.
- The Commissioner suggested that considering the committee's unique charge, looking into using a facilitator to help with discussions going forward.

i) During the discussion, committee members had the following questions;

- Could the committee do research first, to find out what other systems are doing to move away from using pesticides in their facilities?

- Does the MPRB receive many complaints about mosquito abatement?

-The committee indicated that they were interested in reviewing/studying all pesticide use and not just glyphosate, they wondered if their charge could be amended by the board?

-A committee member was interested in talking to MPRB professionals first before moving forward with researching alternatives.

a) Two Committee members moved forward with dividing the committee into subgroups who would work on researching use of glyphosate in;

- Natural Areas
- Golf
- Wetlands
- Baseball Fields
- Gardens

- A Committee member wanted the record to reflect his objection to the group being divided in the subgroups and so early in the process.

8. Housekeeping and Schedule Next Meeting:



- Considering the committee's tight timeline, a twice month meeting schedule was encouraged
- Initial scheduling request did not find common times, so new options will be sent out to the committee for scheduling on Monday, Tuesday and 2nd Wednesday's of the month
- Sub-committee's will be charged with taking meeting notes and making them available to all members via a google drive to be created.
- Committee members requested Russ create a timeline, so they know when tentative deadlines are.
- Committee is looking for a report from staff detailing exact use of glyphosate in each area, how much is being used, when and why.

9. Public Comment Open Time:

- A member of the public expressed her appreciation for the charge and the committee looking into alternatives other than use of glyphosate in the park system. She indicated that she had medical concerns and use of alternatives would allow her to be able to use and enjoy the parks.
- A Commissioner thanked the committee and encouraged them to consider a facilitator for future meetings and explore the potential of a co-chair.
- The 2nd PAC meeting was not determined. Date TBD.

10. Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm

Handouts: PAC Roster and IPM Policy