

Community Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting One

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Pesticide Advisory Committee Meeting

January 10, 2019 5:00 – 7:00pm
Cedar Conference Room

PAC members present: Russ Henry (Chair), Simba Blood, James Calkins, Kari Christianson, Christy Dolph, Janice Gepner, Vera Krischik, Mike Lynch, Jack MacKenzie, Akex Roth, Ellen Sones, Dani Tietjen and Luna Zeidner

Approximately 4 members of the general public attended the meeting.

Staff, commissioners, and speakers present:

Jeremy Barrick, (MPRB), Michael Schroeder (MPRB) Roberta Groening (MPRB), Steffanie Musich (Commissioner), Kaitlyn Ryan (MPRB), and Jason Wolford (MPRB)

Opening: 5:00 pm

The third Pesticide Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order on 5:00 pm by the Community Advisory Committee Chair.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The PAC members were asked to introduce themselves, affiliation (if relevant) and favorite wildflower.

2. Updates and Housekeeping

Reviewed meeting notes from 1/3/2019 meeting. Notes were amended and approved.

3. Rules of Engagement review – Committee chair indicated this should be an action item and opened the floor for discussion.

Committee members indicated they reviewed the supplemental information, a motion to adopt was voted on and passed.

Committee members agreed to use the rules of engagement as their structure for meeting number three.

Presenters: MPRB Staff and Committee Member

Committee reviewed results from last meetings'

Norms Exercise which reviewed scope, process and defining deliverables

Goals where membership reviewed the spectrum of individual perspectives, short- and long-term goals and defining usage for pesticides in the park system.

Scope & Parameters – authority and process



4. Staff Presentation – Formal Gardens

Presenters: MPRB Staff

MPRB staff at the invitation of the committee presented on how glyphosate is used in each vegetation system and what staff would perceive to be challenges in transitioning into a new system.

Questions from the Committee

1) What else has been tried?

Smothering – has been used in some places but not to great effect

Burning – works well and yields quick results. It is however labor intensive

Vinegar & Avenger – MPRB staff have found vinegar to be harsh on the environment in the quantities that are needed in order to be effective and does not affect the root system.

Hand pulling and cutting back – triggers weeds to come back and is Labor intensive.

2) What other types of species of weeds are employees trying to manage?

Thistle, crown vetch, poison ivy and quack grass.

3) What other less stable chemistries has the park board tried?

MPRB staff just uses glyphosate because it has been proven to be less toxic than other herbicides in the quantities and places that it is used.

4) What formal or informal processes are in placed regarding next steps in chemical applications?

In Horticulture the team has relied on the vast knowledge and good judgment of long-term employees to determine next steps. Horticulture manager is looking towards establishing a formal review process.

5) What percentage of time do employees spend on weed management?

Quite a bit of time is spent on management. In the Summer 3-4 full time employees are working on weed management.

6) How are the gardens maintained?

MPRB uses mostly leaf mulch and some wood chips.

Staff Presentation – Golf

Presenters: MPRB Staff

Questions from the Committee

1) What other herbicides have been tried in golf?

None, other than glyphosate

2) Is it possible for the golf team to mulch trees instead of treating with glyphosate?

No, because it is labor intensive and golf areas have a lot of trees that would have to be mulched and eventually weeded as the weeds come through the mulch.

3) Does the Golf and Forestry teams work together on tree management?

No, the Forestry team has been mostly focused on the ash tree removals and will address diseased ash trees on golf properties. Sometimes the golf teams utilize contractors.



- 4) Does the golf team use weed and feed in the Spring and Fall?
No.
- 5) Do the golf staff use fungicide and insecticide?
The team uses approximately 24 ounces per growing season on the greens to control Japanese beetles.
- 6) What are cultural practices in golf?
Aeration and top dressing
- 7) Do the golf courses utilize multiple species of turf?
Yes
- 8) How many applications of fungicide are used?
Approximately 12 applications, bi-weekly

5. Getting Started and Working Groups

Leader: Committee Chair

Discussion;

- Committee chair reviewed the purpose, scope and process
- Committee chair set a recommendation of subgroups submitting their work to the whole committee by end of February 2019
- Committee chair introduced working groups and committee members divided into four areas; Ball Fields, Gardens, Natural Areas and Wetlands.
- Committee chair reviewed the role of facilitator within each subgroup, indicating this individual's role was to make sure notes are kept, facilitate group report out and include all participants in the subgroup process
- Non-facilitator group members may move among working groups of their choosing

Questions from the committee regarding the work groups;

- 1) How are we going to spread the technical knowledge if divided into subgroups and how are we going to know experts in other groups?
- 2) Committee members reviewed other possibilities of structures other than dividing into subgroups
- 3) Committee chair clarified that group members will only be doing homework in their assigned groups
- 4) Committee members wanted to know if they could request more time from the board?
- 5) What happens if the committee cannot find viable alternatives?
- 6) Can the committee recommend further study?

6. Open comment time:

- A Commissioner addressed the group to clarify the moratorium put before the committee by the board.
- The commissioner clarified that the board of commissioners do not direct staff but provide policy guidance



- The commissioner clarified that the committee needed to provide a recommendation (s) to the board by the April deadline in order to make decisions in a timely manner for the upcoming growing season.
- The commissioner indicated that she would also like a report to the board from the committee indicating where they are in the process. The commissioner invited members to contact her with questions or concerns.

7. Thank you and adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 6:59pm

Handouts: Agenda, Notes from 1/3/19 meeting and notes from Group norms exercise.