

Community Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting Twelve

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Pesticide Advisory Committee Meeting

July 29th, 2019 5:00 – 7:00pm
Minnehaha Conference Room

PAC members present Kari Christianson, Mike Lynch, Alex Roth, Russ Henry, Christy Dolph, Jim Calkins, Simba Blood, Luna Zeidner and Patrick Keegan

0 members of the public attended the meeting.

Staff, commissioners, and speakers present:

Jeremy Barrick, (MPRB), Kait Ryan and Roberta Groening (MPRB)

1. Welcome and Updates

Committee members and staff introduced themselves and reviewed 6/17/19 meeting notes, no changes were noted.

2. Review of IPM Policy

- Staff reviewed the IPM policy with changes that incorporated suggestions made by the Pesticide Committee members. Members will review the policy with changes and questions to be discussed at the August meeting.

3. Overview of noxious weed mapping system

- Staff introduced/reviewed an overview of a new tool to MPRB that facilitates both reporting and identifying noxious weeds within the state, with interest in areas managed by MPRB where staff would have a responsibility to respond to the noxious weeds in some fashion.
- This new system will also be helpful in building staff awareness, address timing issues, tracking and retain institutional knowledge.
- Committee members and staff were able to review the system using wild parsnip recorded in Hennepin county as an example of how the map can be used.
- The system is available to both the public and employees alike.

4. Wild Parsnip & Poison Ivy case studies

- Staff reviewed a reported case of wild parsnip at Carvell park. The MPRB staff response without removal using chemicals, has been to sign the area, notifying the public of its location in the park. Additionally, an established mowing program on a pre-determined schedule to hopefully eventually eradicate the parsnip is now in place. So far, the MPRB has not had any calls from the public regarding the wild parsnip or the signage. Committee members suggested that MPRB staff attempt use of a cover crop in addition to mowing, such as oats or wheat.



5. Open comment time:

- a. No members of the public attended the meeting and no additional comments were made during open time.

6. Review of Organic Land Care Training Program – conference call with Chip Osborne
Committee members took part in a conference call and were introduced to Chip Osborne who is an organic turfgrass expert and a professional horticulturist. Chip along with an organization called Beyond Pesticides; a non-profit organization that works with park departments throughout the country promoting alternative pest management strategies that reduce or eliminate reliance on toxic products.

Chip Osborne reviewed a proposal to the committee to a test pilot at two golf holes and a portion of a ball field at MPRB property at Fort Snelling. The pilot program and creation of the organic landscape management plan would be free to the MPRB funded by a grant from Beyond Pesticides. The pilot program would begin with a soil test to analyze nutrient, textural and social microbial life.

Chip along with MPRB staff would then analyze current and past practices to include material and product use. After the consultation, Chip would work with MPRB staff to formulate an organic land management plan to transition each pilot site. Chip would provide technical assistance to the MPRB staff for three years and would help trouble shoot issues that may be encountered during the transition period.

7. Thank you and adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm