

Community Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting Twelve

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Pesticide Advisory Committee Meeting

August 19, 2019 5:00 – 7:00pm
Minnehaha Conference Room

PAC members present Alex Roth, Russ Henry, Christy Dolph, Jim Calkins, Simba Blood

1 member of the public attended the meeting.

Staff, commissioners, and speakers present:

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

1. Welcome

- Previous meeting notes were reviewed with two edit recommendations by the committee.

2. Updates/Check-in

- a. A member of the committee indicated that they had been doing some preliminary investigation of research and funding opportunities for turf using conventional vs. organic management methods. The committee member indicated several possible sources of funding might be available including through the USDA, MPCA and the University of Minnesota.
- b. Another committee member asked of staff whether park keepers were still using herbicides? And the answer was yes at premier fields, restoration projects, and Loring. A suggestion was made as to whether the committee should investigate developing a team from the committee that would survey the scope and scale of work to be done to report back to the entire committee.
Another member of the committee indicated that the committee's approach should stay focused on making MPRB wide policy changes through updating the IPM policy.

3. Review of IPM Policy

- Staff and committee members reviewed the IPM policy with committee members making some edits during the meeting. A suggestion was made for the committee to revisit the early sub-committee setup and work on specific sections of the IPM policy at the upcoming pesticide committee meeting in September.
- A question from a committee member relating to whether consultants on MPRB projects follow MPRB policies and the answer was yes.

4. EIQ Follow up

Staff introduced the concept of the Environmental Impact Quotient to the committee

- A method devised to determine the environmental impact of most commonly used pesticides in agriculture and horticulture.



- Earlier discussions with the group had included the possibility of a test pilot with the guidance of Dr. Paul Koch an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin, in the department of Plant Pathology.
- Staff at Meadow Brook and Wirth golf courses have been working on alternative methods as part of their management strategies and would fund part of the \$5,000 fee to cover Dr. Koch's services.

5. Symposium Discussion

- A committee member discussed the work he has been doing in cooperation with Bee Safe Minneapolis on organizing a pollinator friendly parks symposium in Spring 2020.
- The symposium would include invitations to other municipalities
- Concern among other committee members was similar timing and scope to the Pollinator Friendly Alliance and the Pollinator Symposium that are already scheduled, and a suggestion was made to possibly change the topics presented/discussed at this symposium.

6. Open comment time:

- a. A member of the public expressed her thanks for the work being done by this committee. She however wanted the committee to know that she is continuing to be concerned about the ongoing use of chemicals within the parks.

7. Thank you and adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 6:34pm