Community Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting Sixteen

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Pesticide Advisory Committee Meeting

December 02, 2019 5:00 – 7:00pm
Board Conference Room

PAC members present: Alex Roth, Russ Henry, Mike Lynch, Christy Dolph, James Calkins, Jack Mackenzie, Kari Christianson, Pat Kerrigan

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, and one edit made

2. Updates/Check-in
   - Committee member asked for an update from the Pilot program training with Chip Osborne. Highlights included;
     - Day 1 – presentation focused on sports turf and golf
     - 5 staff from the Minneapolis public schools participated along with approximately 12 MPRB staff
     - Outcome is that Chip will work with staff to develop a plan for the upcoming pilot to commence in Spring 2020.
     - Day 2 – included field trips and soil testing, with park staff agreeing to pilot an entire golf course
     - Assistant Superintendent for Environmental Stewardship updated the committee on the successful hire of the Director of Asset Management for the park board who will begin his duties December 16th.
     - Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is investigating allegations of pesticide use within the park system. Report will be complete in approximately 6-8 months.
     - Horticulture supervisor reported that staff have been gathering and purging hazardous waste within park facilities to include pesticides and paints.

3. IPM Policy and review discussion
   Committee co-chair inquired about having an equitable engagement plan with the IPM policy
   - Assistant Superintendent indicated that the committee would have to appear before the board (hopefully at the December 18 meeting), to request a policy update
   Other members of the committee expressed the following concerns regarding public engagement;
     - The subject matter maybe too technical to get engagement from the community at large.
     - Community may respond better to an IPM policy outline to as opposed to asking broad questions.
- Can this committee participate in the engagement policy and the current work at the same time?
  Assistant Superintendent responded that the current staff team on the committee does not have the technical skill to run community engagement work and would need board direction and budget for the Planning department to be able to engage in this work.
- A committee member expressed that an IPM policy and engagement work needs to be educated (input) because this is a difficult issue for the community to grasp.
- Another committee member asked whether it might not easier to put together a survey of park users to find out where their interests lie
- Yet another member asked if there is a way to know what the community already knows what is being done to curb pesticide usage?
- The committee then decided to begin a frame work of what they might be looking for in an engagement plan and the IPM policy.

4. Open time
- A member of the public expressed her hope that the process of electing members to the Pesticide Advisory committee be de-colonized.

5. Thank you and adjourn
Meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm