

**CITY OF NEW HOPE
4401 XYLON AVENUE NORTH
HENNEPIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA 55428**

Citizen Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting

October 11, 2011
New Hope City Hall, 7 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair London called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners London, Nolte, Pronovici, Sarvi, Sievert

Absent: Commissioners Kilsdonk, Riley, Terres, Wills

Staff Present: Susan Rader, Staff Liaison

Also Present: Emily Anderson, Tobacco-Free Youth Recreation Coordinator

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Sievert to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2011 meeting. A brief discussion ensued. Commissioner Sarvi seconded the motion. Voting in favor: Commissioners London, Nolte, Sarvi, Sievert. Opposed: None. Abstained: Commissioner Pronovici. Absent: Commissioners Kilsdonk, Riley, Terres, Wills. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATION ON
TOBACCO-FREE YOUTH
RECREATION**

Emily Anderson, Tobacco-Free Youth Recreation Program Coordinator, addressed the commissioners. She explained that her organization is a non-profit recreation-based youth tobacco-prevention program that works with communities and community groups in Minnesota to establish tobacco-free parks and recreation areas.

Ms. Anderson referred to the information in the commissioners' packets, and briefly reviewed how tobacco-free parks promote health:

- Parks are established to promote community wellness. Tobacco-free fits with this idea.
- Policies can lead to a reduction in cigarette litter.
- Tobacco-free policies help change community norms.
- Policies can reduce people's exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Tobacco-free parks polices provide consistency among community athletic facilities and groups, such as school districts.

Ms. Anderson informed the commissioners that a 2004 study conducted by the University of Minnesota revealed that 70% of Minnesota residents supported tobacco-free parks. She added that 90% of park directors or staff also supported tobacco-free policies in their communities.

Ms. Anderson displayed a map and list of communities with tobacco-free parks and recreation facilities in Minnesota, and announced that 140 communities had adopted park policies or ordinances.

Ms. Anderson then briefly reviewed a list of frequently asked questions. She informed the commissioners that there was no state law regulating tobacco use in outdoor areas, however local governments were free to enact policies restricting tobacco use.

She explained the difference between a park policy and an ordinance, and noted that a policy does not carry any type of fine or administrative fee, whereas an ordinance does. She informed the commissioners that the majority of the communities identified have policies, while only a dozen or so have adopted ordinances.

Ms. Anderson mentioned that model policy language had been included in the commissioners' packets, and noted that several variations were available. She explained that some communities had opted to include all park property, while others created policies that only covered certain areas of the parks, such as playgrounds and beaches. She briefly reviewed the policies adopted by the cities of Plymouth, Brooklyn Park and Osseo.

Ms. Anderson then briefly discussed enforcement of tobacco-free parks policies. She felt the best way to enforce a policy was to post signs, and noted that her organization could provide pre-printed metal signs free of charge. She also felt that community newsletters and brochures were a good way to inform residents of a policy change.

Commissioner Sievert wondered if the city already had a policy in place.

Ms. Rader replied no, and noted that city facilities were tobacco-free but parks were not.

Commissioner Nolte expressed concern regarding adult softball revenue and wondered if adult softball fields could be excluded.

Ms. Anderson responded yes, and reported that Crystal's policy prohibits tobacco use in youth-oriented areas.

A question was asked regarding enforcement. Ms. Rader commented that enforcement was a concern for the City Council as well as the Police Department.

Chair London wondered about public golf courses.

Ms. Anderson replied that they could be exempted or included in one's policy or ordinance, and noted that Golden Valley's public courses were tobacco-free, but Brooklyn Park's were not.

Chair London expressed concern about driving potential revenue away.

Ms. Anderson stated that the city of Golden Valley indicated that they had not seen a reduction in usage of their golf courses. She added that her organization

was looking into ways to help cities design policies with adult sports leagues in mind.

Ms. Rader wondered whether Ms. Anderson had encountered any religious or cultural issues relating to tobacco-free policies.

Ms. Anderson noted that some communities had chosen to include that in their policies as an exemption.

Commissioner Sievert commented that when this item was previously discussed, there was some hesitation over adding more signs to the city's parks.

The commissioners thanked Ms. Anderson for her presentation. She excused herself from the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

PARK REPORTS

Chair London requested that any park reports identifying bigger problems at a park be shared with the other commissioners.

Ms. Rader mentioned that there had been some concern at the last meeting regarding the need for completing park reports. She commented that it was much appreciated by staff and added that staff had been made aware of many issues over the years thanks to the park reports.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion resumed regarding tobacco-free youth recreation.

MOTION

Commissioner Pronovici made a motion to recommend support for a tobacco-free policy for city parks, and recommend that city staff look closely at whether that policy should encompass the entire park property or narrow its focus to either a youth basis or a usage basis, and consider exemptions for areas such as golf courses, trails, or less-frequently used areas of parks. Commissioner Sarvi seconded the motion. Voting in favor: Commissioners London, Nolte, Pronovici, Sarvi, Sievert. Opposed: None. Absent: Commissioners Kilsdonk, Riley, Terres, Wills. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Rader informed the commissioners that the City Council had discussed organized waste hauling at their work session on October 3, and had decided against moving to an organized system. She also stated that they expressed their appreciation to the commissioners for their time spent researching this issue. She added that they would be supportive of a pilot program if a community group wanted to pursue that on their own.

Ms. Rader also reported that students and staff from Hennepin Technical College began working on the landscape redesign at city hall last week and hoped to finish up this week.

Ms. Rader also referred to some of the weed complaints that had been discussed at the last meeting, and informed the commissioners that Shawn Markham, Contract Manager/City Forester planned to follow up with residents.

The Lions Park celebration was held on September 26. Commissioner Riley was in attendance.

Dick Sievert represented the Citizen Advisory Commission at the Council Work Session on October 3.

Commissioner Sarvi received an acknowledgement for his work on the Bassett Creek Watershed Commission.

Chair London complained about the rusty condition of the stoplights on 42nd Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Nolte made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Citizen Advisory Commission. Commissioner Pronovici seconded the motion. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Penny Spitzer
Recording Secretary