



DATE: January 24, 2023
TO: Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee
FROM: Marie Hinton, PTRC Chair
SUBJECT: PTRC Goals for 2023

Summary:

A discussion with the PTRC members to take place in a work session format.

The following was submitted by Mark Kelliher in advance due to planned absence:

“1) For me, I would like to see us focus on buckthorn eradication throughout our city parks. As I am sure you remember, I have assembled a small cadre of intrepid volunteers and we have been working to remove buckthorn from the wilderness area behind the Valentine Hills Elementary. It’s hard work, but we have accomplished a lot. Ultimately, without a long-term plan, all of our efforts will go to naught because buckthorn is so resilient. That is why I would like to see the City, with our help from PTRC, develop a long-term strategy to keep buckthorn at bay. The work I did volunteering for the NPS at Fort Snelling is an example of how constant harassment of buckthorn growth can ultimately win the battle. So, I guess that’s a long way of saying that I would like to see PTRC develop a long-term strategy to combat buckthorn.

2) Then, on a different note, I would like PTRC to be a little more disciplined in how we conduct our meetings. Specifically, I would like to see us use Robert’s Rules of Order with better proficiency than we have in the past.

I’m not saying that PTRC has to be super-strict about using Robert’s Rules because too much formality will dampen the fun in attending PTRC. I do, however, think that if we all follow a basic framework of Robert’s Rules we will have a better communication process develop between us. Below are some of the basics that I would like to see applied to our PTRC meetings:

1. The Chair (Marie) is responsible for recognizing the next speaker. We, as members, should first ask Marie for the floor.

2. If a motion is presented, it must be seconded by another party. The person who offers the second does not need to agree with the motion. The second is offered only to allow the motion to be considered for further discussion. And, of course, if there is no second, the motion does not advance for further discussion.
3. Once a motion is seconded, it is then open for discussion. Marie is responsible for recognizing the speaker(s) and facilitating the discussion.
4. Once the discussion has drawn to a close, Marie can then entertain a motion to “call the question,” or to “table” the motion for consideration at a later date.
 1. A motion is tabled if there are more facts that need to be unearthed in order to give us a more complete understanding of the issue.
 2. If the motion is fully discussed and is ready for a full vote, the person who originally brought forward the motion would typically reduce the idea into a motion that is clear and actionable, to be voted on, up or down.”