



**June 16, 2026**

TO: Kaohly Her, Mayor  
 Cedrick Baker, Assistant Mayor  
 Rebecca Noecker, Council President  
 Nelsie Yang, Council Vice President  
 Hwajeong Kim, Councilmember  
 Molly Coleman, Councilmember  
 Anika Bowie, Councilmember  
 Saura Jost, Councilmember  
 Cheniqua Johnson, Councilmember

FROM: Jazmine Glaser-Kelly, Chair

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Commission – Transmittal of Resolutions:

- RES 26-06 Naming Phalen Picnic Island “Tou Ger Xiong Island”
- RES 26-07 WSCO Community Garden License Agreement
- RES 26-09 Recommending Chapter 92 Tree Preservation for City Sponsored Construction Projects

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On Thursday, June 11, 2026, the Parks and Recreation Commission passed the following resolutions:

- Res 26-06 – Naming Phalen Picnic Island “Tou Ger Xiong Island”
  - The Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission recommends the Saint Paul City Council name Phalen Picnic Island to Tou Ger Xiong Island.
- Res 26-07 – WSCO Community Garden License Agreement
  - The Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission recommends authorizing community garden license agreements between the Parks and Recreation Department of Saint Paul and West Side Community Organization.
- Res 26-08 – Recommending the Saint Paul City Council Amend Title IV of the Saint Paul Administrative Code to add Chapter 92, titled Tree Preservation for City Sponsored Construction Projects
  - The Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission recommends the Saint Paul City Council amend Title IV of the Saint Paul Administrative Code to add Chapter 92, titled Tree Preservation for City Sponsored Construction Projects





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**RESOLUTION # 26-06**  
**Naming Phalen Picnic Island “Tou Ger Xiong Island”**

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission (“Commission”) is an appointed body established to advise the Mayor and City Council on city-wide matters related to the Department of Parks and Recreation (“Department”); and

WHEREAS, the Department received a \$250,000 grant from the MN Historical Society to design and construct a mural and statue honoring Tou Ger Xiong's life and contributions to the state of Minnesota on an island at Phalen-Keller Regional Park; and

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul Parks Conservancy received a \$15,000 grant from Year-Round Star Funding to install permanent naming markers; and

WHEREAS, the island is unofficially known as Picnic Island and is located at the northwest corner of Phalen-Keller Regional Park ; and

WHEREAS, the creation of public art and a designated memorial space to honor Tou Ger Xiong alongside Lake Phalen will support the goals of honoring Tou Ger Xiong's legacy as a pillar of the community and continuing his work celebrating Hmong heritage, inspiring future community leaders, and bringing people together; and

WHEREAS, the Department has and will continue to work in close collaboration with several partners on this project, including the Xiong Family, Senator Fong Hawj, Ward 6 City Council Office, and community representatives; and

WHEREAS the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission Policy #7, Naming Parks and Recreation Sites, 2012 Update, provides criteria for naming of parks, and this request follows the purpose of the “Memorial Names” criteria; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission recommends naming Phalen Picnic Island to Tou Ger Xiong Island and that the naming go to the Saint Paul City Council for recommendation for approval.

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Adopted by the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission on June 11, 2026:



Approved:

Yeas	<u>6</u>
Nays	<u>0</u>
Abstain:	<u>1</u>
Absent:	<u>1</u>

Resolution #26-06

Attested to by: Chelsea A Boary  
Staff to the Parks and Recreation Commission



**RESOLUTION # 26-07**

**Recommending to City Council approval of community garden license agreement between the Parks and Recreation Department of Saint Paul and West Side Community Organization**

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission (“Commission”) is an appointed body established to advise the Mayor and City Council on long-range and city-wide matters related to Parks and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, the City and the district council West Side Community Organization have established a community garden at Capitol View Park, 386 Cherokee Ave. Saint Paul, MN 55107; and

WHEREAS, members of the Saint Paul community utilize this community garden to cultivate food, be active, and build relationships; and

WHEREAS, Saint Paul Administrative Code requires the licensing of parkland to be approved by the City Council, following a hearing before the Parks and Recreation Commission; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission recommends Authorizing community garden license agreements between the Parks and Recreation Department of Saint Paul and West Side Community Organization.

Adopted by the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission on June 11, 2026:

Approved:	Yeas	<u>6</u>
	Nays	<u>0</u>
	Abstain:	<u>1</u>
	Absent:	<u>1</u>

Resolution #26-07

Attested to by:

Chelsea A Boary  
Staff to the Parks and Recreation Commission





**RESOLUTION # 26-08**

**Recommending the Saint Paul City Council Amend Title IV of the Saint Paul Administrative Code to add Chapter 92, titled Tree Preservation for City Sponsored Construction Projects.**

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission (“Commission”) is an appointed body established to advise the Mayor and City Council on long-range and city-wide matters related to Parks and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, trees provide essential public benefits including improved air quality, carbon storage, urban heat reduction, stormwater management, erosion control, wildlife habitat, and contributions to public health and improve public safety and neighborhood livability; and

WHEREAS, Saint Paul’s tree canopy has been significantly degraded by the spread of Emerald Ash Borer, with resulting long-term impacts on environmental quality and equitable access to these benefits; and

WHEREAS, urban heat islands disproportionately affect areas with lower tree canopy cover, resulting in higher temperatures, reduced air and water quality, increased energy burdens, and elevated public health risks; and

WHEREAS, these impacts are concentrated in neighborhoods with higher proportions of low-income households and historically underinvested communities; and

WHEREAS, advancing climate resilience requires intentional, equity-centered investment in tree canopy restoration, preservation, and maintenance in areas most affected by environmental harm and historic disinvestment; and

WHEREAS, the Tree Preservation Ordinance Public Input Group (TPO PIG) conducted an eighteen-month collaborative process involving residents, advocates, technical experts, and City staff across multiple departments to evaluate and refine tree preservation policy and implementation; and

WHEREAS, this process resulted in a consolidated ordinance and Standard Operating Procedures framework intended to be clear, enforceable, and operationally implementable while advancing environmental stewardship, accessibility, and infrastructure compatibility; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations developed through this process prioritize strengthened tree preservation policy, improved public engagement and accountability, and consistent, transparent implementation across City systems; and



WHEREAS, the TPO PIG emphasized that equity and environmental justice require reducing structural barriers to tree protection so that preservation outcomes do not depend on individual capacity, technical knowledge, or access to informal decision-making processes, but instead reflect consistent public standards; and

WHEREAS, the group further recommended that tree protections be applied consistently and systematically across all projects and geographies to ensure equitable outcomes not shaped by differential resources, procedural complexity, or variability in implementation; and

WHEREAS, the group emphasized a “hold harmless” approach in which existing high-canopy neighborhoods are maintained and protected while historically under-canopied and heat-vulnerable neighborhoods receive prioritized investment; and

WHEREAS, these findings support adoption of a strengthened Tree Preservation Ordinance and accompanying Standard Operating Procedures that embed equity, consistency, accountability, and environmental justice in the preservation and expansion of Saint Paul’s urban forest; and now, therefore, be it;

RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission recommends the Saint Paul City Council amend Title IV of the Saint Paul Administrative Code to add Chapter 92, titled Tree Preservation for City Sponsored Construction Projects.

Adopted by the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission on June 11, 2026:

Approved:	Yeas	<u>7</u>
	Nays	<u>—</u>
	Absent:	<u>1</u>

Resolution #26-08

Attested to by:

Chelsea A Boary  
Staff to the Parks and Recreation Commission