

City of Excelsior
Hennepin County, Minnesota

Minutes
Park and Recreation Commission

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Wolfe called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

Commissioners present: Craig, Norman, Punch, Wahlstedt, and Chair Wolfe

Commissioners Absent: Honzl and Mullenbach

Also present: Public Works Superintendent Wisdorf

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Wahlstedt moved, Commissioner Craig seconded, to add items 6(a), TCF Gazebo, and 6(b), Cricket Usage of Park, and to approve the agenda, as amended. Motion carried 5/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Norman moved, Commissioner Wahlstedt seconded, to approve the Park and Recreation Commission minutes of June 10, 2014. Motion carried 5/0.

4. CITIZEN REPORTS OR COMMENTS

Leon Boyd, 44 First Street, addressed the Commission and referenced an email he sent to the Commission regarding the sidewalk and his concern about the mulch on the hill to the bath house. Mr. Boyd requested that the City blacktop the worn trails from the playground to the bath house. Superintendent Wisdorf said he was planning to add black dirt and sod to replace the mulch.

Commissioner Wolfe referenced planting shade-friendly plants on the hill that would be shade hardy. Commissioner Wolfe suggested adding this to the August meeting agenda under new business.

Commissioner Craig would like to come up with ideas for the area in discussion.

Commissioner Wahlstedt would like to combine the ideas for a plan on erosion.

Mr. Boyd asked for clarification on the irrigation system plan on how it will be installed. Superintendent Wisdorf talked about how they will be marking underground utilities.

Mr. Boyd asked for if there is a public email for the Commission.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(a) Concerts in the Park

Commissioner Wolfe announced that the next concert is tomorrow. He said there needs to be a person to pick up the money and tickets, due to Finance Officer Tumberg being out of town. Commissioner Norman volunteered.

Commissioner Norman showed that the South Lake Minnetonka magazine had the wrong date.

Commissioner Punch will update the Facebook page with the new concert.

Commissioner Wolfe asked if there were any new noise complaints. Superintendent Wisdorf said there have been no complaints since the first concert.

(b) Hennepin Youth Sports Grants

Superintendent Wisdorf has been unable to connect with the sports program director. Commissioner Wolfe has contacted the Diamond Club about raising funds for the ballfield.

(c) Nitpickers List & Event Review

Commissioner Wolfe asked to move picnic tables, as they have been moved out of planned areas.

Superintendent Wisdorf said the rock wall has been cleaned up. Commissioner Wolfe said it looks good.

Superintendent Wisdorf has updated the gate for the tennis courts and new barriers for the lake with the high water.

Commissioner Norman asked about the water on the sidewalk by Pier 4. Superintendent Wisdorf said he has a few theories about where the water is coming from. He said it could be ground water leaching out of the ground, and if it still persists through July, testing would be needed to find the source. H said the cause is still unknown.

Commissioner Norman asked about painting the band shell due to graffiti. Superintendent Wisdorf has it on the list to be fixed. Commissioner Wahlstedt asked if the public can get some paint to paint when it occurs. Superintendent Wisdorf said the graffiti isn't as bad as previous summers. Commissioner Wolfe asked about surveillance equipment to record the vandals. Also was suggested to change the light to a different color or brightness.

Commissioner Norman said the park looked very nice for the fourth of July.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(d) Proposal for Excelsior Studer Park Prairie Restoration

Commissioner Wahlstedt said there has been no movement on the restoration. There hasn't been much demand for more garden plots.

(e) Request for Memorial Bench

Superintendent Wisdorf informed the City Council that people do get a plaque on an existing bench and the funds go to the General Fund.

Commissioner Wolfe asked to explore a policy that a bench should be replaced with the bench fund.

The Commission discussed where funds should go when a person requests a bench.

Commissioner Wahlstedt asked how many benches do not have plaques. There are four left to be memorialized.

Commissioner Punch moved, Commissioner Norman seconded, that the Commission adopt a policy of offering to memorialize an existing bench or a new bench and that the City will purchase a new bench with the funds. Motion carried 4/1.

6. NEW BUSINESS

(a) TCF Gazebo

Superintendent Wisdorf informed the Commission that the wood on the gazebo is rotten. There is an opportunity to replace with something other than a gazebo. A new gazebo replacement is \$30,000 and would last about 25 years.

Commissioner Norman suggested throwing the project at the Rotary Club to replace the gazebo. Commissioner Wolfe will reach out to the Rotary Club to research.

(b) Cricket Usage of Park

Commissioner Craig wanted to inform the Commission that there is a group forming to play in the park.

7. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

(a) Park Improvement Fund

Commissioner Craig moved, Commissioner Punch seconded, to approve the Park Capital Improvement Fund financial report of June 2014. Motion carried 5/0.

Superintendent Wisdorf will be ordering the Merry Go Round.

8. MISCELLANEOUS / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

(a) Recent Council Action

Superintendent Wisdorf briefed the Commission on recent City Council actions.

9. UPDATES / INFORMATION

(a) Next Park and Recreation Commission Meeting – Wednesday, August 13, 2014

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Craig moved, Commissioner Wahlstedt seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Motion carried 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew J. Punch