

City of Excelsior
Hennepin County, Minnesota

Minutes
Park and Recreation Commission

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Wolfe called the meeting to order at 6:21 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Craig, Norman, Punch, and Chair Wolfe

Commissioners Absent: Honzl, Mullenbach, Wahlstedt

Also present: Public Works Superintendent Wisdorf

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Punch moved, Commissioner Norman seconded, to approve the agenda, as amended. Motion carried 4/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Punch moved, Commissioner Norman seconded, to approve the Park and Recreation Commission minutes of November 12, 2014. Motion carried 4/0.

4. CITIZEN REPORTS OR COMMENTS:

No one appeared before the Commission.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) None

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) End of Season Meeting with Dock, Buoy, and Slide Renters

Rhoda Brooks, 859 Excelsior Boulevard, addressed the Commission and thanked them for the new permanent dock at Hidden Lane. She said the first year of the new dock, and they are three feet lower than the temporary docks. If the lake remains low, she said they would like to have extensions to the docks. Wisdorf said that the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) would have to approve any extensions.

6. NEW BUSINESS

b) End of Season Meeting with Dock, Buoy, and Slide Renters - Continued

Commissioner Norman asked why dock rates are charged by the foot instead of by the slip. Wisdorf explained that a calculation was created in the past that has been used for the last several years.

The Commission discussed letters received by Eric Snyder, 25 Center Street, and Tom Knowlton, 191 Third Street.

Commissioner Wolfe commented that the docks and fees were originally set up to break even and provide access to the lake.

Commissioner Norman suggested creating a need-based fee for the docks.

Tumberg said she is not comfortable with the City obtaining resident's financial information and having the City hold such information. She also stated that residents still have access to the lake through the boat launch at the marina and that a dock slip isn't a necessity, so creating a need-based fee doesn't seem appropriate.

Commissioner Craig asked about other City costs.

Councilmember Jennifer Caron, 189 Third Street, addressed the Commission and said that the City Council would like to transfer any overage of the dock replacement to the General Fund to offset levy increases.

Commissioner Punch moved, Commissioner Norman seconded, to accept Option 2 with a goal of achieving a flat rate within a five-year graduated scale. Motion carried 4/0.

Commissioner Wolfe asked for clarification on the definition of Senior Citizen. Tumberg said, currently, the dock application requires the renter to be 62 years old and retired; however, Tumberg said the City doesn't verify that the resident is retired.

Commissioner Craig moved, Commissioner Norman seconded, to remove the senior rate from the dock fee structure. Motion carried 3/1.

Bob Jackson, 349 College Avenue, addressed the Commission and asked for clarification on the boat lift policy. He said that some docks would not have a deep enough draft if all boats were 24 feet long.

7. VERBAL REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

a) Proposal for Excelsior Studer Park Prairie Restoration

Nothing to report.

b) Erosion Control and Potential Plantings

Commissioner Norman asked about plan for erosion control and potential plantings. The Commission discussed that it will be developed in the spring.

c) Hennepin Youth Sports Grant

Wisdorf stated that the ball field will not qualify for one of the Hennepin County grants. He said the key to the outline is to make sure that the ball field is used for a variety of things and improving the site.

The Commission discussed two items to look into: 1) \$100,000 for new lights; and 2) \$200,000 for artificial surface in the infield.

d) Irrigation in the Commons

Wisdorf said that irrigation will go online in the spring.

e) Community Garden Committee Report

Nothing to report.

f) Arctic Fever Update

The list of events planned for Friday, January 16th, and Saturday, January 17th, were discussed.

g) Gazebo Funding

Wisdorf reported that the City Council responded favorably to transfer the Gambling Funding to this project.

8. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) October 2014 Park Capital Improvement Fund

Commissioner Punch moved, Commissioner Craig seconded, to approve the November 2014 Park Capital Improvement Fund. Motion carried 4/0.

9. MISCELLANEOUS / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

a) Recent Council Action

Wisdorf briefed the Park and Recreation Commission on recent City Council actions.

10. UPDATES / INFORMATION

a) Next Park and Recreation Commission Meeting – Tuesday, January 13, 2014

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Craig moved, Commissioner Punch seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Motion carried 4/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Punch