

City of Excelsior
Hennepin County, Minnesota

MINUTES
EXCELSIOR WORK SESSION MINUTES

June 6, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Gaylord called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers Carlson, Miller, Beattie (arrived at 6:16 p.m.)
and Mayor Gaylord

Absent: Councilmember Caron

Also Present: Park and Recreation Commissioners: Wolfe, Rodgers,
Mullenbach

City Manager Luger, Public Works Superintendent Amundsen,
and City Clerk Orlofsky

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Carlson moved, Miller seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 3/0.

3. JOINT WORK SESSION WITH THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Mayor Gaylord explained that the City Council agreed how beneficial it was to have a joint Work Session with each of the Commissions to discuss goals for the upcoming year and any other items that should be addressed.

a) Review of 2016 Goals:

1. Evaluate Extension Options for the Residential and Commercial Docks

The City Council and the Park and Recreation Commission discussed the public hearing process for the potential dock extensions. Miller added that both the Park and Recreation Commission and the City Council should hold meetings about the potential dock extensions, to give the public more opportunities to voice their opinion and learn about the proposal.

Mullenbach asked if there was a way to bring back the permanent swimming dock in The Commons to provide more of a draw for the swimming beach in The Commons.

Luger explained that part of the reason the docks were pulled was because the zebra mussels were causing a lot of issues with the kids cutting their feet on them.

1. *Evaluate Extension Options for the Residential and Commercial Docks - Continued*

Miller added that lifeguards also became an issue when the economy fell. They were too expensive and the City had to cut them.

Commissioner Rodgers asked if City staff could put together a presentation for the Public Hearing at the Park and Recreation Commission level. Luger replied that staff would put that together.

Commissioner Rodgers asked if the rates would change at the transient docks. Luger explained that the Council has increased the rate from \$1 per hour to \$5 per hour.

Miller added that the rates on the meters can be adjusted at any time, so if the City has pushback on the meter rates, they can be adjusted.

The Commission wondered if the City should just rent all of the slips and not have transient slips.

Luger explained that the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District requires the City to have some transient dock slips.

Commissioner Wolfe asked if the Council would consider entertaining a parking sticker for the transient docks. Miller thought that would defeat the purpose of transient docks because it would not keep them open and available.

2. Research Enhancing Excelsior-Studer Park

Commissioner Mullenbach mentioned that the Park and Recreation Commission is continuing to research other ways to enhance this park. They have discussed adding mini golf, batting cages, and a soccer dome to this area.

Gaylord said that he likes these ideas and would encourage the Commission to continue exploring options.

Commissioner Rodgers thought maybe the Park and Recreation Commission could do a survey to see what sort of amenities the citizens would like to see. Miller encouraged moving forward with the survey.

3. Explore Integrating the Trail within the City and Provide 'Nice Rides'

The Council would like to see the trail from Chanhassen to Shorwood connected through Excelsior. They believe it is a great idea; however, the cost of land acquisition was quite costly for this project. The Council asked if there was grant money available to help get the project moving.

Commissioner Rodgers said she met with Three Rivers Park District. She explained that they were very interested in helping to improve the hub of the bike trail through town near 318 Café.

Luger added that there wasn't any formal funding set aside for this project but Three Rivers Park District did suggest there are ways to help the City get funds if this progresses.

The Council asked the Commission to continue looking into this.

Luger explained that the City has a Master Parks, Trails, and Walkways Plan from 2009 that should be considered as the Park and Recreation continues the progress of this.

4. Research Options for the Gazebo by TCF Bank

The Park and Recreation Commission said that the Gazebo should be torn down because it is rotting and unsafe. They shared with the Council that the Garden Club has removed everything that is unsafe and that all that is left is the shell.

When the Park and Recreation Commission voted to have the gazebo removed, there was a group of concerned residents that felt it was historic to the downtown and wanted it to remain.

The Park and Recreation Commission has worked with a Landscape Architect to come up with a landscaping plan at the intersection where the gazebo is located.

Luger added that The Commons Master Plan Committee is moving forward with developing a Master Plan. The group is conducting interviews for a facilitator next week, Luger said and they hope to have a candidate for the City Council to consider at a future meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Beattie moved, Carlson seconded, to adjourn at 6:59 p.m. Motion carried 4/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Orlofsky
City Clerk