

City of Excelsior
Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

November 15, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chair Wentz called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Filippi, Rude, Schmidt, Wolfe, and Chair Wentz

Commissioners Absent: Alderink

Also present: Public Works Superintendent Wisdorf

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Filippi moved, Commissioner Rude seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Park & Recreation Commission Meeting – October 11, 2011

Commissioner Rude moved, Commissioner Wolfe seconded, to approve the Minutes from the October 13, 2011 Park and Recreation Commission meeting as presented. Motion carried 5/0.

4. CITIZEN REPORTS or COMMENTS

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. End of the Season Meeting with Dock/Buoy/Slide Renters and Commercial Boat Owners

Lee Newcomb, 156 Linwood Avenue, inquired as to the plans for slides at Linwood Avenue. Wisdorf stated that the City will be applying to the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District to place two single slides at the Linwood fire lane and add eight slides at The Commons.

It was requested that the posts in front of the boat slides at the Lafayette Avenue fire lane be relocated to provide an anchor for the use of a winch.

Jenna Bush, and the deposits for size required by February.

b. End of the Season Meeting with Community Garden Renters

Chair Wentz called for comments regarding the community gardens.

Rod Schallberg, 131 Second Street, stated that he's a member of the Men's Garden Club. He stated that the ground at the community gardens is extremely hard and that the soil pH balance is poor.

5. NEW BUSINESS

b. End of the Season Meeting with Community Garden Renters – (Continued)

Kristi Reardan, Shorewood, also commented that the soil is very hard.

Dan Bergeson suggested having composting on the site.

Dave Clinefelter, 425 Lafayette Avenue, commented that the concept of the gardens was wonderful, but that the soil is high in alkaline making it difficult to grow anything. He commented that there really needs to be a 5-foot fence to eliminate the deer problem.

Shannon Post commented that there were seven garden plots that were not rented this past season. She has three people who didn't rent a plot this year who want to rent a garden plot next year.

It was suggested that because it would take years to develop the soil, that there should be a priority system to allow people to have the opportunity to keep the same plot year-after-year.

Comments from a number of other individuals were received.

There was a suggestion for the establishment of a message board.

There followed a general discussion by board members and citizens with the following suggestions:

1. An inquiry should be made as to the liability of the contractor for providing poor soil. Wisdorf indicated that he will follow up on this and report back to the Commission at the December meeting.
2. Consideration for the establishment of a compost site.
3. Consideration for fencing to make the gardens deer proof.
4. Consideration for the establishment of a message board.
5. Consideration for exploring options to improve the texture and pH of the soil. Wisdorf indicated that he would contact the Hennepin County Extension Service as well as the Minnesota Arboretum.

c. Pocket Park Proposal

After extensive discussion, Commissioner Schmidt moved, Commissioner Fillipi seconded, to forward the recommendation to the City Council that the Pocket Park Proposal be rejected. Motion carried 5/0.

5. NEW BUSINESS

d. Sandall Marketing Proposal – Reinventing the Event Experience

After extensive discussion, Commissioner Schmidt moved, Commissioner Rude seconded, that the Park and Recreation Commission has no position regarding the Sandall Marketing Proposal, and that the Commission would prefer that the study not be funded from the Park Capital Improvement Fund, as they did not believe it was an appropriate use of these funds. Motion carried 5/0.

e. Appointment of Park and Recreation Commissioner to Represent the City of Excelsior on Arctic Fever Committee

Chair Wentz agreed to serve as the representative from the Park and Recreation Commission on the Arctic Fever Committee to assist with the planning for the event.

f. End of Season Report on 2011 Kayak/Paddleboard Rentals and Request for Additional Kayaks/Paddleboards for 2012 Season

Wisdorf reported that the City Council approved Mr. Drummond's request to add a storage bin, paddleboards, and kayaks for the 2012. Staff is in the process of drafting an amendment to the contract to allow the additional items. The amendment will be placed on an upcoming Council agenda for approval. This item is informational; no action is needed by the Commission at this time.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Use of Excelsior Studer Park – Explore Dog Park

The Commission was informed that the Council considered the Park and Recreation Commission's recommendation to explore a dog park at Excelsior Studer Park. The consensus of the Council was to wait and look at the large picture on what to do with the City's parks before adding any more improvements.

Commissioner Schmidt moved to send a recommendation back to the City Council in favor of promptly moving forward with the dog park. The motion failed for lack of a second.

b. Minnesota Hockey Day Event, January 21, 2012

Wisdorf reported that the plans for the hockey rink have changed. The hockey rink will be placed in The Commons instead of on Lake Minnetonka.

Commissioner Wolf moved, Commissioner Fillipi seconded, to extend the meeting an additional 10 minutes. Motion carried 5/0.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

c. Update from Committee for Better Lake Minnetonka Band Shell

Commissioner Wolf reported that the feasibility study is moving forward and a list of the names of potential donors are being gathered.

7. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

a. Park and Recreation Accounts

The Commission raised a question regarding the discrepancy between the September actual and the year-to-date totals for expenditures.

Commissioner Schmidt moved, Commissioner Rude seconded, that the Park and Recreation Accounts Report be continued to the December meeting. Motion carried 5/0.

8. MISCELLANEOUS / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

a. Recent City Council Actions

Wisdorf updated Commissioners on recent City Council actions.

Commissioner Schmidt suggested that the December agenda include a discussion on "volunteer opportunities for adopting a flower bed in The Commons".

Commissioner Rude gave an update on the City of Shorewood's Trail Plan. She indicated that Shorewood is in the process of obtaining a grant and suggested that Excelsior look into the possibility of reviewing our Park Plan to coordinate with Shorewood's Trail Plan. She suggested that the Commission consider the establishment of a joint committee to work on this.

Commissioner Schmidt asked that the issue of the garbage facility behind Tommy's Tonka Trolley be placed on the December agenda.

Chair Wentz announced that he would be unable to attend the December meeting and that Commissioner Alderink would preside.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Filippi moved, Commissioner Wolfe seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10. Motion carried 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Schmidt
Acting Secretary