

City of Excelsior  
Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

December 13, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of Chair Wentz, Commissioner Alderink was appointed Acting Chair.

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

2. OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Ruehl administered the Oath of Office to new Commissioner, John Beattie.

3. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Beattie, Filippi, Rude, Schmidt, Wolfe, and Acting Chair Alderink

Commissioners Absent: Chair Wentz

Also present: Public Works Superintendent Wisdorf

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Park & Recreation Commission Meeting — November 15, 2011

It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes from the November 15, 2011 Park and Recreation Commission meeting as presented. Motion carried 6/0.

5. CITIZEN REPORTS or COMMENTS

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Tobacco Free Parks – Minnetonka High School Students and Emily Anderson, Hennepin County, Tobacco-Free Youth Recreation Program Coordinator

A delegation from the Tonka Leadership Council at the Minnetonka High School presented a proposal/request for the adoption of a tobacco free policy for the Excelsior Park system. The chief spokesman of the group was Emily Anderson, coordinator of the Hennepin County Tobacco Free Youth Recreation Program. Also speaking from Minnetonka High School were: Brendan Broviak, Abby Gordon, Reade Seicke, Lauren Sutfin, Kaila Thatcher, Aaron Nemitz, and Luay Al-Shawi.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Tobacco Free Parks – Minnetonka High School Students and Emily Anderson, Hennepin County, Tobacco-Free Youth Recreation Program Coordinator – (Continued)

The group presented options for the adoption of a tobacco free policy and/or adoption of an ordinance with the various enforcement options.

Commissioners requested additional information.

It was moved and seconded to continue this agenda item to the January 10, 2012 meeting. The motion carried 5/1, with Commissioner Filippi voting nay.

- b. Fence for Gardens

Wisdorf reported that the City of Excelsior is eligible for receiving a grant of \$6,000 for the installation of a fence around the community gardens. Accordingly, he had requested proposals from fence companies for the material and installation of the fence. Two proposals were received, one from Town & Country Fence in the amount of \$14,895 and another from Midwest Fence in the amount of \$10,522.

Commissioner Rude moved, Commissioner Filippi seconded, to forward the recommendation to the City Council that: (1) the grant be accepted; (2) the proposal from Midwest Fence be accepted with the materials being purchased immediately and installed at the appropriate time in the Spring of 2012; and (3) that options to create a "critter/bunny" barrier at the base of the fence be explored. The motion carried 6/0.

- c. Volunteer Opportunities for Adopting a Flower Bed in The Commons

There was an extended discussion regarding the concept of creating a plan to ask volunteers to adopt flowerbeds in The Commons with the idea that specific plots be designated as flowerbeds for volunteers to plant and maintain. It was suggested that a Master Gardener be recruited to plan and oversee the project. The concept received general approval from the Commission.

Commissioner Wolf indicated that he has been researching the matter for some time and has collected an extensive file of information regarding similar projects in other cities. It was suggested that the City attempt to recruit a Master Gardener to coordinate the project. Wisdorf indicated that he knew of a Master Gardener that he worked with in the past.

Commissioners Wolfe and Schmidt volunteered to bring a plan of action to the January meeting. The Commission continued this agenda item to the January 10, 2012 meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

d. Hennepin County Grants Available in 2012 for Active Living/Complete Street Programs

A copy of a letter from the Hennepin County Transportation Department was presented for review. The letter indicated that the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners has set aside funds to be used for the implementation of improvements along State Highways and County Roads, including bikeway and sidewalk/pedestrian development.

Commissioner Rude discussed the issue of coordinating bicycle traffic with the Hennepin County trail system. She urged the City to explore the option of requesting Hennepin County funds for a study regarding the improvement of bicycle and pedestrian traffic in our community.

It was agreed that staff would explore options in this regard and report to the Commission at its January meeting.

e. Refuse Facility at the Port of Excelsior

There was an extended discussion on the condition and appearance of the refuse facility at the Port of Excelsior. Staff will explore the options and bring back a proposal/plan for the upgrading of that facility as well as an enclosure of the dumpster at the ballpark to the January meeting.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Garden Plot Policy

Wisdorf reported that he had been in contact with the contractor for the Excelsior Parkland Project and was in the process of exploring options to correct the condition of the soil in the garden area.

It was agreed that the proposed fencing discussed under Item 6(b) above will include the establishment of a composting area.

The existing garden plot policy was extensively reviewed and determined to be generally acceptable for continued use with the exception that a specific policy for the assignment of lots should be added. Commissioner Schmidt agreed to draft a policy statement for consideration at the January meeting.

b. Minnesota Hockey Day Event, January 21, 2012

Commissioner Alderink reported on the current status of the plans for this event. The main hockey rink has been moved from the lake to The Commons. The other rinks will be moved to the lake. No trees will need to be removed or moved. The baseball field will be used for parking. The understanding is that the park will be returned to "same or better condition" following this event. The main rinks will remain in place after the event for community use.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

b. Minnesota Hockey Day Event, January 21, 2012 – (Continued)

There was a general discussion as to the concept of an ice skating rink in the park in future years and the consensus was that this issue should be the subject of future consideration.

c. Update from Committee for Better Lake Minnetonka Band Shell

Commissioner Wolf indicated that the feasibility study is ongoing. He had nothing further to report at this time.

8. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

a. Park and Recreation Accounts

The corrected financial statement for October 31, 2011 and the new report for November 30, 2011 were approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Filippi, seconded by Commissioner Wolfe, to extend the meeting time passed 9:00 p.m. Motion carried 6/0.

9. MISCELLANEOUS / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

a. Recent City Council Actions

Wisdorf presented a Summary on recent actions by the Excelsior City Council.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Filippi moved, Commissioner Wolfe seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. Motion carried 6/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Schmidt  
Acting Secretary