

City of Excelsior
Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wentz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Alderink, Beattie, Filippi, Rude, Schmidt, Wolfe
(arrived at 7:04 p.m.), and Chair Wentz

Also present: Public Works Superintendent Wisdorf

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Beattie moved, Commissioner Alderink seconded, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 6/0.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Park & Recreation Commission Meeting – December 13, 2011

Commissioner Beattie moved, Commissioner Schmidt seconded, to approve the meeting minutes from the December 13, 2011 meeting as presented. Motion carried 5/0, with Chair Wentz abstaining.

5. CITIZEN REPORTS or COMMENTS

None

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Emily Anderson of the Hennepin County Tobacco Free Youth Recreation (TFYR) and Aaron Nemitz, member of TFYR and resident at 18224 Hermitage Way, Minnetonka, presented further information to answer several questions that the Park & Recreation Commission had raised at the December meeting.

TFYR is asking for a policy, not an ordinance forbidding tobacco use in Excelsior Parks. They also presented the new 12" x 12" - "Welcome to our Tobacco Free Parks" signs which the Commission liked better than the older, larger version.

Commissioner Filippi said he is against the proposed policy and believes it infringes on the rights of citizens.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Commissioner Schmidt moved, Commissioner Beattie seconded, to forward the recommendation to the City Council that the smoke-free policy be instituted in all of Excelsior Parks as shown on Page 7 of the Policy Makers Guide that the TFYR handed out at the December meeting.

Chair Wentz called for further discussion.

Rude commented on the dangers of secondhand smoke, especially during events in The Commons that are particularly crowded.

Chair Wentz said he supports a policy, but not an ordinance.

Wolfe said he is concerned about enforcement of the policy.

Alderink stated that citizens are likely to self-enforce should the policy go into effect.

Chair Wentz called for a vote. Motion carried 6/1, with Commissioner Filippi voting against the motion.

- b. Garden Plot Policy

The Commissioners reviewed the Garden Plot Priority Policy.

Commissioner Schmidt submitted changes for implementation. Other than the priority policy, no changes were made to the rest of the policy.

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

Schmidt and Wolfe said that they would like to bring in a Master Gardener to assess the areas for beds and types of flowers to be used.

Wisdorf will ask the Men's Garden Club for assistance/consultation.

Although there are questions regarding the specifics of this programs such as Corporate Sponsorship, monetary donations or just doing the work of caring for a bed, and Recognition Signs for the beds, the Commission agrees that this program is something the Park and Recreation Commission should support.

Wolfe will continue to research the details and Rude will attend the next Men's Garden Club meeting.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

It was reported that there are grants available in 2012 for Active Living/Complete Streets. Commissioner Rude will continue to look into ways that the can use the grant money.

- e. Refuse Facility at the Port of Excelsior

Wisdorf will bring pictures to the February meeting of some structures that he believes will work in The Port and possibly by the ballfield. The Patisserie Bakery dumpster enclosure would be a good example.

Commissioner Schmidt moved, Commissioner Filippi seconded, to extend the meeting to 9:10 p.m.

- f. Minnesota Hockey Day Event, January 21, 2012

Alderink gave an update from the January 10, 2012 meeting for the "Hockey Blast" event to be held in Excelsior the weekend of January 20 – 22, 2012.

- g. Update from Committee for Better Lake Minnetonka Band Shell

Commissioners Schmidt and Wolfe gave an update.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. None

8. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a. Park and Recreation Accounts

A financial report could not be provided. With the Finance Officer position vacant, it will be difficult to get a report until the position is filled.

9. MISCELLANEOUS / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- a. Recent City Council Actions

A summary of the recent City Council actions was provided by staff.

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10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Rude moved, Commissioner Alderink seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried 7/0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Alderink", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Heather Alderink
Secretary