

City of Excelsior  
Park and Recreation Commission  
Minutes  
Tuesday, July 10, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chair Beattie called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Filippi (arrived at 7:00 p.m.), Mullenbach, Rude, Schmidt, Wolfe, and Chair Beattie

Commissioners Absent: Norman

Also present: City Manager Luger

2. ELECT OFFICER – SECRETARY

Commissioner Mullenbach moved, Commissioner Rude seconded, to elect Doug Schmidt as Secretary. Motion carried 4/1, with Commissioners Mullenbach, Rude, Wolfe and Chair Beattie voting in favor of the motion, and Commissioner Schmidt voting against the motion.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Rude requested that Fourth of July Observations be added to the agenda.

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 5/0.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Park & Recreation Commission Meeting – June 12, 2012

Commissioner Wolfe moved, Commissioner Rude seconded, the approval of the Park and Recreation Commission's minutes of June 12, 2012. Motion carried 5/0.

5. CITIZEN REPORTS or COMMENTS

None.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Adopt a Flower Bed in The Commons

Commissioner Schmidt reported that 34 additional plantings were added to the planting beds in The Commons by Commissioners Norman and Schmidt. He recommended that in the future more perennials be emphasized versus annuals.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Adopt a Flower Bed in The Commons – (Continued)

Commissioner Wolff stated that the Commission started late in the Spring on the "Adopt a Flower Bed Project. He said that the Commission should establish a comprehensive plan and aggressively promote and recruit during the winter months.

Commissioner Rude suggested that a "point person" be recruited to head up this project.

Commissioner Schmidt volunteered to attend a Men's Garden Club meeting to solicit advice on how to proceed more effectively with this program and report back at the September meeting.

The Commission discussed having Public Works Superintendent Wisdorf put together an estimate on the cost to bring water to the planting area and/or the installation of an automatic watering system.

City Manager Luger mentioned that there may be funds from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) and/or tax increment financing that can be used for watering The Commons and other related projects. Commissioner Mullenback and others mentioned that there are funds available from the MCWD for rain gardens.

There was a general discussion about tax increment financing funds that might be available. It was recommended that the Commission explore this as a method of financing improvements in The Commons.

b. 2012 Goals and Objectives

Chair Beattie presented the report on the goals and objectives that the subcommittee had put together.

City Manager Luger stated that the Council is waiting for the Sandall Marketing Study and many projects are "on hold" until that is received.

Commissioner Schmidt moved that the Commission send a message to the City Council expressing its support for the use of bonding options for the improvement of The Commons. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Commissioner Mullenback moved, Commissioner Schmidt seconded, a motion to approve the priorities report and send it to the Council. Motion carried 5/0.

c. Concerts in the Park

It was noted that assignments to assist with the Concerts in the Park have been made.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

c. Concerts in the Park – (Continued)

Commissioner Schmidt raised the issue of why concerts are being held in the park without the Commission having any knowledge. He gave as an example the Native American presentation by a group called Brule, which was held on Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. Schmidt indicated that he only learned about the concert because he was walking to the park shortly before the beginning of the concert. Commission members stated that they had no knowledge of the concert either.

The suggestion was made that the City should establish a marquee or some other signage to advise and inform the public of upcoming events. Chairman Beattie commented that the priorities list contained a recommendation for improved signage.

d. Reforestation

It was reported that Public Works Superintendent Wisdorf had provided a report regarding the existence of 24 ash trees in The Commons and the prior removal of seven.

The Commission requested that the issue of the protection of the Ash trees from Ash Borer infestation/disease be placed on the September agenda

e. Port of Excelsior Refuse Facility

It was noted that the issue of the refuse facility in the Port of Excelsior was included in the priorities report.

f. Excelsior Studer Park

It was also noted that the issue of Excelsior Studer Park was also included in the priorities report.

g) Update from Committee for Better Lake Minnetonka Band Shell

Commissioner Wolfe reported that the feasibility study that had been funded in part by City funds and by the Rotary had resulted in the conclusion that it was not feasible to raise any significant amount of money from private contributions.

Commissioner Schmidt noted that 95% of the usage of the Commons is by non-residents, not taxpayers of the City of Excelsior. Accordingly, efforts should be made to convince Hennepin County to provide funding assistance.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Bike Trail and Sidewalk Input for Met Council "Force Main" Project

Commissioner Rude reported that she had met with City Planner, Lane Braaten to discuss the establishment of a bike trail in connection with the Metropolitan Council Forcemain Project.

Chair Beattie moved, Commissioner Schmidt seconded, that Commissioner Rude continue to work with the City Planner to further develop a comprehensive plan for bike trails in connection with the Metropolitan Council Forcemain Project. Motion carried 5/0.

b. Request for Tree Planting and Plaque

The Commission reviewed a request from Anna Lunzer to plant a memorial tree and plaque in memory of Kylie Grayden.

Commissioner Schmidt moved, Commissioner Mullenbach seconded, that the request to plant a memorial tree presented by Anna Lunzer be approved with the condition that Public Works Superintendent Wisdorf choose the tree species and the plaque is installed in accordance with City guidelines. The vote was 5/1, with Commissioners Mullenbach, Rude, Wolfe, Schmidt, and Chair Beattie voting in favor of the motion and Commissioner Filippi voting against the motion.

The question was raised as to what the City guidelines actually are with regard to tree species. The Commission requested that staff provide a report on the guidelines for tree planting for the August meeting.

c. Fourth of July Observations

The Commission discussed the Fourth of July celebration.

8. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

a. Park and Recreation Accounts

It was moved and seconded to accept the Park and Recreation financial reports. Motion carried 6/0.

9. MISCELLANEOUS / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

a. Recent City Council Actions

City Manager Luger updated the Commission on recent City Council actions.

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Schmidt  
Secretary