

City of Excelsior
Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, September 11, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chair Beattie called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Mullenbach, Norman, Rude, Schmidt, Wolfe, and Chair Beattie

Commissioners Absent: Fillippi

Also present: Public Works Superintendent Wisdorf

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Item 6(i) Use of Ballpark - South Tonka Baseball, was added to New Business. It was agreed that this item would be moved up on the agenda when the representatives for the South Tonka Baseball group arrives.

Commissioner Wolfe moved, Commissioner Schmidt seconded, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 6/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Park & Recreation Commission Meeting – August 15, 2012

Commissioner Mullenbach moved, Commissioner Wolfe seconded, to approve the Park and Recreation Commission Minutes for August 15, 2012. Motion carried 6/0.

4. CITIZEN REPORTS or COMMENTS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Adopt a Flower Bed in The Commons

It was noted that the subcommittee has not completed its work. This item was continued to the October 9, 2012 Park and Recreation Commission meeting.

b. Concerts in the Park

Wolfe introduced Scott Bolin. Wolfe said that Bolin has had experience with musical productions and publicity. Bolin has offered to help with a plan to improve the quality of the City's summer concerts.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

b. Concerts in the Park – (Continued)

The consensus of the Commission was that the concerts could be more of an “event” and they need better publicity. The bandshell does not have sound equipment and great sound equipment is important to the quality of the product. Mr. Bolin indicated that he thought that the sound equipment could be provided at a cost of \$200-\$400 per event.

Schmidt reported that he has spoken to Shorewood Mayor, Chris Lizee and the Shorewood Mayoral candidate, Scott Zerby. He noted that both have indicated that they would be in favor of merging Shorewood’s and Excelsior’s summer concert program.

It was suggested that representatives from Excelsior’s Park and Recreation Commission meet with the Shorewood Park and Recreation Commission to explore this merger.

Schmidt asked who owned the property at the corner of Water and Oak Streets, where the Gazebo is located. Wisdorf stated that the City of Excelsior owns the property. Commissioners requested that Wisdorf provide a report on the possibilities for signage in that area for the October meeting.

Several Commissioners commented on the fact that many of the Park and Recreation Commission’s projects have been placed on hold pending the Sandall Marketing Study.

Schmidt commented that there has been no communication between the Sandall Marketing group and the Park and Recreation Commission since March. He noted that a meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 13th to review the status of the Sandall Marketing study with the Sandall Marketing Study Subcommittee.

There was general discussion that there could potentially be the need for an additional staff person to oversee a more active summer recreational program in The Commons for such activities as tennis lessons, swimming lessons, music camp, etc.

Wisdorf stated that a joint meeting of the Council and the Park and Recreation Commission is being scheduled for Monday, September 24th at 6:30 p.m. He encouraged the Commission members to attend this meeting.

Commissioner Schmidt moved, Commissioner Mullenbach seconded, to convey to the City Council that the Park and Recreation Commission supports the enhancement of the summer concert series, cooperation with Shorewood and other municipalities, and the establishment of a subcommittee chaired by Commissioner Wolfe to continue the Commission’s efforts in this regard. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item for the joint meeting with the City Council. Motion carried 6/0.

6. NEW BUSINESS

j. Use of Ballpark – South Tonka Baseball

Representatives from the South Tonka Baseball group, Kyle Heitkamp, Brent Liam, and Tim Gabler arrived and were introduced by Wolfe.

The representatives indicated that there are 540 families involved with South Tonka Little League and 350 families within the baseball program. The group is currently using fields in Tonka Bay and Shorewood, but they are still short fields for what is needed for their program. They would like to explore the possibility of using the baseball field in The Commons. This field is particularly attractive for their program because it is lighted and could be used when lighting conditions are poor in May as well as into June and July.

The representatives indicated that South Tonka Baseball would be willing to spend money to improve the field in The Commons, including grading, re-sodding, batting cages, dugout covers, irrigation system, etc. They indicated that the field could continue to be used for softball. The softball leagues are currently using the field three nights a week. Their organization would want to use the field as much as possible, especially the four days/nights that the softball league isn't currently using the field.

Commissioners Wolfe and Mullenbach agreed to continue to explore the possibility of working with South Tonka Baseball on a proposal for extended use and improvement of The Commons ball field. Motion carried 6/0.

It was suggested that this would be another item to explore in the joint meeting with the City Council.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

c. Men's Garden Club Perennial Bed

This item was continued to the October meeting.

d. Fall Cleanup Event

The Commission scheduled the Fall Cleanup Event for Saturday, October 27, 2012. This item was continued to the October meeting.

e. Collaborative Efforts with Neighboring Cities

This item was continued to the October meeting.

f. Reforestation

Commissioner Schmidt suggested that the issue of reforestation remain on the Commission's agenda as unfinished business in perpetuity.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

f. Reforestation – (Continued)

Wisdorf stated that he has 11 trees available through the Minnesota Inboard project. Two of the trees are currently scheduled to be planted in The Commons and two on Galpin Lake Road. That would leave seven available for The Commons.

Commissioner Schmidt indicated that he would work with Wisdorf to plan the installation of the trees in The Commons

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Signage for Activities in The Commons

The Commission requested that the agenda item be added to the October agenda.

b. Ordinance for Bicycle Use in The Commons

Schmidt stated that he continues to receive complaints about the usage of bicycles on the sidewalks in the park.

Commissioner Schmidt moved, Commissioner Mullenbach seconded, to recommend to the City Council that an ordinance be adopted requiring bicycles to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians on the sidewalks in The Commons and appropriate signage stating such be installed.

After extended discussion, the motion failed on a 3-3 vote, with Commissioners Schmidt, Mullenbach, and Chair Beattie voting in favor of the motion and Commissioners Norman, Rude, and Wolfe voting against the motion.

c. Venues in The Commons

The Commission requested that the agenda item be added to the October agenda.

d. Goose Dropping Problem

The problem with goose droppings in The Commons was discussed. Wisdorf indicated that the only practical solution appeared to be the establishment of a natural barrier along the water, noting that there may be funds available from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

Commissioner Wolfe moved, Commissioner Schmidt seconded, for staff to continue to explore the options for a goose abatement program and report back to the Commission on the subject at the October meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

e. Review City Ordinances Pertaining to Parks

Schmidt stated that he had asked that a review of all City ordinances relating to the functions of the Park and Recreation Commission and those relating to park usage be added as an agenda item for this meeting.

Staff was unable to get the information pulled together for this meeting. The Commission requested that this item be placed back on the October agenda.

A brief discussion ensued regarding park hours, camping, permits for park usage, etc. Commissioners suggested that this also be an agenda item for the joint meeting with the city Council.

f. Park and Recreation Commission Meeting Time

After general discussion, the Commission agreed to continue with a 6:00 p.m. start time for the meetings. Staff was directed to a change to the by-laws to reflect the new starting time to the October meeting agenda.

g. Paver Brick Proposal for the Port of Excelsior:

Wolfe commented that it had been agreed that he and Commissioner Filippi would present a recommendation to the City Council to improve the Port of Excelsior with paver bricks and that somehow that recommendation had not gotten placed on the City Council's agenda.

Commissioners agreed that this item should be placed on the City Council's agenda and added to unfinished business for the Commission's October meeting.

h. Irrigation System

Norman raised the issue why the City does not have an irrigation system in The Commons. It was requested that Wisdorf provide a report for the October meeting with separate estimates for irrigation of the area used for Art on the Lake, the ballpark area, and the flower beds.

7. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

a. Park and Recreation Accounts

Finance Officer Tumberg had provided a memo that had an overview of the Park Accounts. Wisdorf reviewed and discussed the information with Commissioners.

8. MISCELLANEOUS / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

a. Recent City Council Actions

Wisdorf updated the Commission on recent City Council actions.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Mullenbach moved, Commissioner Wolfe seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Motion carried 6/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Schmidt
Secretary