

City of Excelsior  
Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER /ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Vice-Chair Rude. Vice Chair Rude presided over the meeting until Chair Beattie arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Commissioners present: Filippi, Mullenbach, Norman, Rude, Schmidt, Wolfe, and Chair Beattie

Commissioners absent: None

Also present: Public Works Superintendent Wisdorf

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Mullenbach requested that an Update on Arctic Fever be added to the agenda. With that addition, the agenda was approved. 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 – September 11, 2012

Commissioner Wolfe moved, Commissioner Schmidt seconded, to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2012 meeting as presented. Motion carried 7/0.

4. CITIZEN REPORTS or COMMENTS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

g. Bike Trail and Sidewalk Initiative

Commissioners agreed to move this item up on the agenda to accommodate the Mr. Morrow and his daughter.

Andrew Morrow, 5935 Galpin Lake Road, presented a request that Excelsior apply for grants and/or matching funds from the Hennepin County Transportation Department to establish a pedestrian walkway across Highway 7 to connect with Galpin Lake Road and from there connect with a pedestrian walkway to be located within the City of Shorewood.

Commissioner Rude led an extensive discussion regarding the pedestrian walkway across Highway 7 and Galpin Lake Road, as well as several other improvements that Excelsior may want grant funding.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

g. Bike Trail and Sidewalk Initiative – (Continued)

At the conclusion of the discussion, Commissioner Rude moved, Commissioner Norman seconded, to forward the recommendation to the City Council that Excelsior energetically pursue all funding opportunities that may be available for bikeway, trail and sidewalk projects with the following priorities:

- (1) Sidewalk replacement and improvement at Water Street and William Street;
- (2) Connection of the bicycle gap to the regional trail administrate;
- (3) Pedestrian walkway at the intersection at Water Street/County Road 19;
- (4) Support of Shorewood proposal regarding Galpin Bay Road.

It was recommended that separate proposals be considered as opposed to lumping these options into a single proposal in order to maximize the dollar potential.

The motion also included the designation of Commissioner Rude as the official representative of Park and Recreation Commission to work with City Planner Braaten and the City Council in the development of these proposals. Motion carried 7/0.

a. Use of the Ballpark – South Tonka Baseball

Wolfe reported that Commissioner Beattie and he had attended the City Council meeting to request a waiver of fees for the South Tonka Little League games this fall. He reported that games had been successfully played and that there had been approximately 60 spectators watching the games.

Commissioner Schmidt moved, seconded by Commissioner Filippi, to move forward with a formal plan for the usage of the ballpark and the concession stand for the 2013 season. Motion carried 7/0.

b. Adopt a Flower Bed in The Commons

The Commission agreed to move this item to the November agenda. Commissioners Wolfe, Norman, and Schmidt agreed to continue working on the agreement with the volunteers.

c. Concerts in the Park

Wolfe indicated that he is continuing to work on the development of an improved concert series for 2013.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

c. Concerts in the Park – (Continued)

Schmidt suggested a major expansion to the concerts to include large events such as a bluegrass Festival, Oktoberfest, and other major events in The Commons. Some of which may potentially derive income for the City from vendors.

Filippi suggested that the local restaurants be approached as to their interest in sponsoring these events.

Norman suggested a “Golden Oldies” program similar to what she is familiar with in Arnold’s Park/Okoboji, Iowa. She agreed to research that possibility and report back to the Commission.

Wisdorf reported that \$4,000 has been allocated for concerts in the 2013 budget. Schmidt indicated that he is in the process of making contact with the Shorewood Park & Recreation Commission and other local communities to explore cooperation.

The general consensus was that the exploration of these options should remain a priority for the Commission and that emphasis should be placed on improvement of promotion and publicity.

d. Men’s Garden Club Perennial Bed

No report.

e. Fall Cleanup Event

The Commission agreed to cancel the Fall Cleanup Event and to begin discussions on the Spring cleanup at the January meeting. Wisdorf reminded the Commission that the City’s annual leaf and yard waste pickup is scheduled for Saturday, November 10.

f. Goose Dropping Problem

Wisdorf reported that the installation of a vegetation barrier and the use of a “goose stopper” formula is a viable option. He noted that there are cost sharing opportunities available through the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD). The total cost for a barrier along the east shoreline could possibly be done for \$10,000, with 50% paid by the MCWD.

Commissioners suggested that a speaker from the MCWD and/or vendors be invited to attend the November meeting and Wisdorf provide a report.

g. Bike Trail and Sidewalk Initiative

This item was moved up on the agenda ahead of Item 5(a).

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

h. Brick Paver Program for Port of Excelsior

Wolfe reported on the various options available for the improvement of the Port of Excelsior with additional brick pavers. He indicated that the total cost would be approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Beattie discussed the options that might be available through tax increment financing.

Commissioner Wolfe moved, seconded by Commissioner Schmidt, to continue to explore this program. Motion carried 7/0.

i. Irrigation System

This item was continued to the November meeting.

j. Collaborative Efforts with Neighboring Cities

No report.

k. Reforestation

Wisdorf reported that there are trees available from the Minnesota Inboard Project. Five spots in The Commons where trees had been removed and two spots on Galpin Lake Road have been identified as locations for planting the trees. The Commission also discussed the option of installing the additional trees as pine trees in Excelsior Studer Park.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Signage for Activities in The Commons

This item was continued to the December meeting.

b. Venues in The Commons

This item was continued to the December meeting.

c. Amend Park and Recreation Commission By-Laws to Change Meeting Time

Commissioner Filippi moved, Commissioner Mullenbach seconded, to amend the Park and Recreation Commission By-Laws to establish the meeting time to be 6:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Motion carried 7/0.

7. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

a. Park and Recreation Accounts

No action taken.

8. MISCELLANEOUS / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

a. Recent City Council Actions

No report.

b. Minutes from Joint Work Session with City Council – September 24, 2012

Information only.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Rude moved, Commissioner Filippi seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Motion carried 7/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Schmidt  
Secretary