

City of Excelsior
Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER /ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Chair Beattie.

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

Commissioners absent: None

Also present: Public Works Superintendent Wisdorf

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Filippi moved, seconded by Commissioner Rude, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 7/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Park & Recreation Commission Meeting – October 9, 2012

Commissioner Wolfe moved, Commissioner Rude seconded, to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2012 meeting as presented. Motion carried 7/0.

4. CITIZEN REPORTS or COMMENTS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Use of the Ballpark – South Tonka Baseball

Wolfe reported that he was engaged in monthly meetings for South Tonka and the Diamond Club. He indicated that he would have an outline for the 2013 Summer Program for the December meeting.

The Commission requested that staff provide a report as to the usage and revenue derived from the ballpark in the summer of 2012.

Commissioner Filippi moved, seconded by Commissioner Mullenbach, to designate Commissioners Wolfe and Mullenbach to be the official liaisons from the Park and Recreation Commission.

Wolfe and Filippi agreed to provide a report at the December on what activities are permissible for the concession stand with regard to health department issues.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

b. Adopt a Flower Bed in The Commons

It was reported that Commissioners Norman, Wolfe, and Schmidt toured the Port of Excelsior. Arrangements were made for Jan Klaus to prepare a plan for the planting of the perennials which are to be moved from the library site to The Commons in the Spring of 2013. That plan was presented and approved in concept.

c. Concerts in the Park

Filippi presented a plan for five major concerts in the park. He agreed to take charge of the development and operation of this program and to continue working on finalizing the plan which would include the involvement of local restaurants with revenues to be raised via a beer garden and possible food court.

Commissioner Schmidt moved, seconded by Commissioner Mullenbach, to approve the concept for the Concerts in the Park with a more detailed plan to be presented at the December meeting. Motion carried 7/0.

d. Men's Garden Club Perennial Bed

It was also announced that the Men's Garden Club is considering taking over the maintenance of the garden areas in the Port of Excelsior.

e. Goose Dropping Problem

Wisdorf reported that the estimated cost of a barrier would be approximately \$18,000 to \$25,000, and that the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District would be willing to pay 50% of the costs.

Several Commissioners voiced a concern that the vegetation that is proposed would look like "swamp grass". The Commission asked Wisdorf to report at the December meeting on what planting options are available.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. End of Year Meeting with Garden Plot Renters

Items 6(a) and 6(b) were scheduled for 7:00 p.m., so the Commission moved to these items at 7:00 p.m.

The agenda was interrupted at 7 o'clock to allow for public comments from the garden plot renters and the Docks/Buoys/Slider Renters.

After extended discussion, there was a motion by Commissioner Schmidt, seconded by Commissioner Rude, to establish the policy to prohibit the planting of perennial plants in the community garden plots.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. End of Year Meeting with Garden Plot Renters – (Continued)

Commissioner Rude moved, seconded by Commissioner Mullenbach, to recommend that up to \$500.00 be allocated for compost and fertilizer for the 2013 growing season.

Commissioners requested that City staff move the gardeners who did not take proper care of their garden plot in 2012 be moved to the bottom of the list for the 2013 Season.

Commissioners agreed that the City should schedule a meeting of the gardeners at an appropriate time in the spring to discuss the establishment of a Facebook page and other methods of communication between the gardeners and to encourage garden renters to participate in the City's Adopt a Flower Bed Program.

b. End of Year Meeting with Dock/Buoy/Slide Renters

Rhoda Brooks, 859 Excelsior Blvd., discussed the problem with the low water level at the Hidden Lane docks. She requested that efforts be made to add another eight-foot section to the dock.

Wisdorf said he would talk with the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District to see what would be possible.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

f. Bike Trail and Sidewalk Initiative

Rude reported that the grant applications had been submitted that the Commission discussed at the October meeting. She reported that Shorewood was hosting an open house Thursday, November 15th there is a meeting on Thursday night at Minnewashta Elementary School regarding the proposed Smithtown Road Trail from Shorewood/Victoria border to the Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail. .

The Commission requested that a more detailed report on the grants be provided at the December meeting.

g. Brick Paver Program for Port of Excelsior

Wolfe reported on the progress he has made with the proposal for additional paver bricks at the Port of Excelsior.

Commissioner Schmidt moved, seconded by Commissioner Mullenbach, to move forward with the development of this program and the presentation of it to the City Council.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

h. Irrigation System

Wisdorf reported that the estimated cost for an irrigation system in The Commons would be \$50,000 or less, including the electrical work. The consensus was that the irrigation system is a vital necessity to the development of other programs in The Commons.

After extended discussion, the Commission agreed to hold a Work Session on November 27, 2012 at 6:15 p.m. to discuss the preparation of an annual report to the City Council.

i. Reforestation

Wisdorf reported that 11 trees were received from MN Inboard and have been planted. He provided the locations where each of the trees had been planted.

6. NEW BUSINESS

c. The Commons and Port of Excelsior Related Revenue

Wisdorf presented the report on the income that was generated in The Commons and at the Port of Excelsior.

Commissioner Filippi moved, seconded by Commissioner Mullenbach to extend the meeting. Motion carried 7/0.

There was a general discussion regarding the need for a summer recreation program. The comment was made that this is generally handled by the Minnetonka Community Education Department. The comment was made that efforts should be made to explore cooperation with the Three Rivers Park District.

7. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

a. Park and Recreation Accounts

Wisdorf presented and reviewed the monthly financial report.

8. MISCELLANEOUS / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

a. Recent City Council Actions

Wisdorf updated the Commission on recent City Council actions.

8. MISCELLANEOUS / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

b. Arctic Fever Updates

Mullenback reported on the plans for the Arctic Fever Event that will be held in January. It was agreed that Commissioners Rude and Mullenbach would make the recommendation on the selection of programs for Excelsior.

c. Other

Chair Beattie reminded the Commission that he would be re-signing to take his elected position on the City Council and that an election for a new Chair would be scheduled for the December meeting.

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