

City of Excelsior

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners present: Filippi, Mullenbach, Norman, Wolfe, Honzl, and Chair Rude

Absent: Craig

Also present: Public Works Superintendent Wisdorf

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Items 5(g) – South Tonka Little League, 5(h) – Irrigation of The Commons, and 5(i) – Damage Control – The Commons were added to the agenda.

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Park and Recreation Commission Meeting – May 14, 2013

Commissioner Filippi, Commissioner Norman seconded, to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2013 Park and Recreation Commission meeting. Motion carried 6/0.

4. CITIZEN REPORTS or COMMENTS

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Preliminary Designs to Enhance Electrical Boxes in The Commons

Mark Nessel, Nessel Architecture, showed some preliminary drawings and information on materials to improve the look of the electrical stands in The Commons that are used to provide power for the various City events.

Commissioners agreed that the center box should be more of an informational kiosk and the side boxes should have more of a low key ribbed design.

Nessel will modify the designs and bring drawings back for the Commission to consider at the August 13, 2013 meeting.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

b. Bike Trail and Sidewalk Initiative

On Tuesday, February 5th, staff was notified that the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners had formally approved funding for both of the applications that the City has submitted for the 2013 Sidewalk Participation Program and the 2013 Bikeway Development Participation Program. The County will reimburse the City for eligible project expenses for the sidewalk replacement and expansion along County Road 19/Oak Street up to 25% of the project cost with a maximum of \$50,000. The County will also reimburse the City for eligible project expenses for the feasibility study along County Road 82 up to 50% of the project cost with a maximum of \$20,000. The preliminary cost estimates for the sidewalk installation and replacement would cost approximately \$230,000 and the feasibility study along County Road 82 would cost in the range of \$25,000 to \$30,000.

Commissioner Norman moved, Commissioner Wolfe seconded, to forward the recommendation to the City Council to approve the grant agreements for the 2013 Sidewalk Participation Program and the 2013 Bikeway Development Participation Program provided the projects can be completed without the use of park capital improvement funds. Motion carried 5/1, with Commissioner Filippi voting nay.

c. Concerts in the Park

Commissioner Filippi reviewed the concert that would be held the following evening. He noted that volunteers are needed to work the concert. He noted that Jamison the Juggler was hired to perform at the concert.

The Commission discussed that more advertising was needed, but no action was taken.

Commissioner Norman excused herself and left the meeting.

d. The Commons Clean Up – Saturday, May 18, 2013

The annual walk through of The Commons was scheduled for the July 9, 2013 Park and Recreation Commission meeting. The walk through will begin following the approval of the minutes from the June meeting.

Additional and completed Nitpickers list items, recent park damage, ball field actions, playground improvements, and erosion control will be looked at as part of the walk through.

e. Playground Improvements at The Commons

This item will be considered in conjunction with the walk through on July 9, 2013.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

f. Nitpickers List

This item will be considered in conjunction with the walk through on July 9, 2013.

g. South Tonka Little League notes

There were no comments from South Tonka Little League. The Commission requested that this item be an ongoing agenda item.

h. Irrigation

The Commissioners raised concerns that the stakes from the tent at Art on the Lake could possibly damage the future irrigation system.

Commissioners Mullenbach and Filippi suggested a more industrial set up for the open space to limit hazards. Wisdorf stated that the irrigation plans were still in the planning stage; he will relay the Commission's concerns to the City Engineer.

i. Damage Control

The Commission discussed the vendors being placed out in the ball field for the Art on the Lake event. The Commission wanted to know why the event was given permission to place the vendors in the ball field when all of the electrical is located next to the road. More planning is needed with the Commission on the events and the development of protocols on the usage of the park.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Southeast Playground Proposal - United Methodist Church

It was reported that in previous years, there had been discussions on partnering with the Excelsior United Methodist Church to provide park facilities for the southeastern Excelsior neighborhoods. The 2009 City of Excelsior Master Parks, Trails, and Walkways Plan has as a goal actively pursuing an agreement with the Church to provide park facilities through a cooperative venture between the City and church.

Elizabeth Reid, United Methodist Church representative, said that over the years, representatives from the Church have had discussions with various City staff on the development of a public park for the residents on the south side of Highway 7. She said that the Church would like to formally request an opportunity to reopen the discussions with the City.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Southeast Playground Proposal - United Methodist Church – (Continued)

It was suggested that the City of Excelsior get in touch with the City of Shorewood to see if they would be interested in collaborating with the Church and Excelsior in this effort.

Commissioner Mullenbach moved, Commissioner Honzl seconded, to forward the recommendation to the City Council to open discussions with the representatives from the United Methodist Church regarding the development of a public park on the south side of Highway 7. Motion carried 5/0.

8. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

a. Park and Recreation Accounts

Commissioner Filippi moved, Commissioner Wolfe seconded, to accept the financial reports on the Park and Recreation accounts. Motion carried 5/0.

9. MISCELLANEOUS / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

a. Recent City Council Actions

Wisdorf provided an overview of recent City Council actions.

b. Summit Meeting with Park Commissions from Neighboring Cities – Next Meeting, Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Chair Rude provided a brief overview of the meeting that was held in May. She noted that the quarterly meetings are likely to continue.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Filippi moved, Commissioner Honzl seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Motion carried 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul V. Mullenbach
Secretary