

1. Agenda And Packet

Documents:

[SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 PNR AGENDA.PDF](#)

[SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 PNR AGENDA PACKET.PDF](#)

City of Excelsior  
Park and Recreation Commission

Agenda

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

MEET AT THE PLAZA IN THE COMMONS

IF INCLEMENT WEATHER, MEET AT 322 SECOND STREET

6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
2. AGENDA APPROVAL
3. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 15, 2023 PNR MEETING MINUTES
4. THE COMMONS WALKTHROUGH
5. UPDATES
6. ADJOURNMENT

**Notice:** Some items on this agenda are important enough to City Councilmembers that a quorum of the Council may be present to receive information leading to their future deliberations and eventual decision.

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City of Excelsior  
Hennepin County, Minnesota  
Minutes  
Park and Recreation Commission  
Tuesday, August 15, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioners present: Chair Wolfe, Sobiech, Vogel, Wiese, Pike, Smith and Schmidt  
Commissioners absent: None

Also present: Public Works Superintendent Amundsen, Parks Manager Ward, Residents Bob and Diane Bolles, Residents Lynn and Richard Brokke.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Smith moved, Commissioner Pike seconded, to approve the agenda. Carries 5/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Commissioner Smith moved, Commissioner Schmidt seconded, to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2023 PNR Commission Meetings. Carries 6/0.

4. CITIZEN REPORTS OR COMMENTS

Lynn Brokke, 603 Lake Street, addressed the Parks and Recreation Commission (PNR) regarding the geese in The Commons and them traveling into the great lawn. Staff discussed the ongoing geese problem and Chair Wolfe stated that the most effective deterrent is a shoreline buffer which staff is actively working on as part of the shoreline stabilization effort. Staff have met with the watershed district and WSB and Associates for the shoreline stabilization effort and will continue to ensure that geese deterrence is included within the scope of the project. The Commission also discussed the addition of deterrents such as chicken wire, fencing, and other short-term options to stop the geese from traveling from the lake to the shoreline and great lawn. Staff stated they would work on this in the near term to see if there are any efficient solutions prior to the shoreline stabilization project.

Resident Brokke also brought up the cemetery and the removal of dead trees and the potential to have volunteers work on headstones that have fallen or deteriorated. Staff communicated that they had 4 of the most critical removals done last fall and currently are having contractors provide a bid for the removal of additional trees to include those of concern brought forth by the residents at the PNR Meeting. Staff also communicated that they had \$12,600 worth of trimming and dead wooding done on the trees in the cemetery with another \$12,600 for phase 2 to be completed this winter. The Commission discussed inviting the cemetery committee to an upcoming meeting to discuss the

progress in the effort and also provide the PNR Commission with insight into what they would be responsible for moving forward. The Committee has done preliminary work and exploration on utilizing a contractor to assist in grave restoration and other efforts. The Commission would like an update regarding these items and would like a Committee member to attend a future meeting for informational purposes and communication.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a) None

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Parks and Recreation Commission Strategy Session Discussion

Continued to a future meeting.

- b) Studer Park- Discussion Only

Continued to a future meeting.

- c) Commons Ballfield Scheduling

Continued to a future meeting..

7) VERBAL REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

- a) Updates on Oak Savanna Project and other Commons Project

Superintendent Amundsen and Parks Manager Ward provided an update on the Oak Savanna/Woodland project, shoreline and knoll stabilization project and the recent meetings with WSB and Associates and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to discuss the effort and provided an update on the tennis courts and potential grant opportunities being explored by staff to help facilitate that project.

8. UPDATES/INFORMATION:

- a) Community Garden Plots and Garden Plot Committee; no action taken.
- b) Adopt-a-Seat, Adopt-a-Garden, and Adopt-a-Tree Programs; no action taken.
- c) Ice Rinks at The Commons Ballfield; no action taken.
- d) Concerts in the Park/Bandshell Update/Concession Stand; no action taken.
- e) Excelsior Park Maintenance Log; discussed the addition of potential “wrapping” the electrical boxes, lift station, and other unsightly boxes. Custom electrical box wraps could include historical photos, murals, or other photos wrapped onto unsightly boxes in The Commons. Will add to future agenda for discussion.
- f) Discussion on Port Bell; no action taken.

- g) Studer Park; no action taken.
- h) Gazebo/Mitten Pond; no action taken.

9. MONTHLY FINANCIALS:

- a) June 2023 Park Fund Report

10. MISCELLANEOUS/ COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- a) Recent Council Action: no action taken.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vogel to adjourn, seconded by Smith. Carries 6/0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim J. Amundsen



# MEMORANDUM

**Re:** 4- The Commons Walkthrough

**Date:** September 12, 2023

Tim Amundsen

**To:** Park and Recreation Commission

**From:** Public Works Superintendent

The PNR Commission will be meeting at The Commons to conduct an onsite review of the park. The onsite review will include observing the newly completed Plaza, Pavilion, the shoreline to include The Port, ballfield, great lawn, garden areas, beaches, tennis court, bathhouse, Oak Knoll Project area, and playground. The onsite meeting will be conducted to make recommendations for upcoming improvements and to assess onsite conditions.

Staff applied for and received a Healthy Tree Canopy Grant from Hennepin County in 2022. As part of the grant, staff are working with Tree Trust to have a volunteer tree planting event which is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for volunteers and potential input as to where new trees should be planted and located within The Commons. If Parks and Recreation Commission members have recommendations for new tree planting locations within The Commons, they can be discussed at the walkthrough.