



## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting of  
October 9, 2013  
Duluth Heights Community Recreation Center  
33 W Mulberry St., Duluth, MN



Chairman Welles called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM at the Duluth Heights Community Recreation Center, 33 W. Mulberry Street, Duluth.

Members Present: Thomas Albright, Joel Braun, Erica Erickson, Edwin Hall, Eric Viken and Jon Welles

Member(s) Absent (Excused): Andy Holak, Susan Beasy Latto, Michael Schraepfer

Also Attending: Emily Larson, City Council Liaison; Frank Jewell, St. Louis County Representative; Jeff Anderson, Operations Coordinator, City Parks and Recreation Division.

Upon motion by Commissioner Viken and second by Commissioner Erickson, the minutes for the meeting of September 11, 2013 were approved by a unanimous vote.

### PRESENTATIONS: NONE

### COMMISSION COMMITTEES:

**Trails and Bikeways:** Commissioner Viken updated the Commission on the work being done on the Duluth Traverse, indicating that work was close to being finished in the Lester Park area, while work in the Mission creek area will not be completed until spring of 2014.

Frank Jewell asked how the public would know when sections of the Duluth Traverse are open for use. It was indicated that information is available on the COGGS website. The Commission asked that Amy Norris, the City's Public Information Coordinator, be asked to provide current information on the Parks website on public use of the Duluth Traverse, and all other city trails, as well as a link to the COGGS website trails information.

The Commission was informed that the City of Duluth had been selected as having the third best trail system in the US in a recent trail magazine article. It was agreed that this positive development needed to be given citywide publicity.

Information related to several examples of electric bike protocols for natural surface trails was circulated for discussion. Jeff Anderson indicated that the Parks Division is doing additional research on this issue. He will report back to the Commission at a later date.

Commissioner Albright offered to look into the status of the Outdoor Alliance and provide an update on its activities to the Commission at its next meeting.

### Recreation Programming – Youth and Adult:

The Recreation Programming Committee will review recommendations for **Parks Commission Grants for Community Programs and Facilities** funded through the pull-tab tax and bring a proposal for action to the Commission at a later meeting. There was \$29,095.20 available for these grants as of October 1, 2013.

"These grants are a cooperative effort between the City of Duluth and the Parks and Recreation Commission. They are awarded as starter funds to foster and promote recreation programs, encourage the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, refurbishing, maintenance and operation of public recreation facilities and community recreation programs in the City of Duluth" (Press release 8/1/11)

### COMMISSIONER AND LIAISON REPORTS:

Commissioner Erickson indicated that the requested inventory of park equipment that could be used for children with disabilities was underway.

Commissioner Hall indicated that a meeting had been set for October 31, 2013 with Pat Huston, Assistant District Engineer for MDOT, and others, to discuss if there might be ways for the City and MDOT to work together in enhancing or taking better care of the Mesaba Avenue Corridor- a central entrance-way into the City of Duluth.

Chairman Welles indicated there had been an additional public informational meeting of the Dog Park Task Force. There was a small group in favor of moving forward with the two locations discussed at the Commission's June 12, 2013 meeting. The need to have a future public meeting with notice to residents in the affected areas prior to any final decisions was discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Parks Fund Grant Selection Committee:**

Commissioners Braun and Albright were appointed to serve on the Parks Fund Grant Selection Committee. The next meeting to review grant applications has been set for November 4, 2013.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Mini-Master Plan for Irving Park:**

An update was not available for discussion at this meeting.

**Update on Central High School Trail Easement.**

Commissioner Viken indicated that the School Board had voted in September to grant a trail easement, contingent on future rezoning. It was decided that this agenda item be removed from the Old Business agenda and placed on the agenda of the Trails and Bikeways Committee.

**DIVISION MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Jeff Anderson reported that updates on Mini-Master Plans, the Cross City Trail, DNR Legacy Grants and the Parks and Recreation Division budget would be provided at the next meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/SPEAKERS:**

There were no public comments or speakers.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM, on motion of Commissioner Braun, second by Commissioner Erickson and a unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edwin K. Hall, Secretary