



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting of November 13, 2013
Central Hillside Center



The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM in the Central Hillside Community Center.

Members Present: Erica Erickson, Andy Holak, Joel Braun, Tom Albright, Susan Beasy-Latto, JC Welles, Eric Viken
Members Absent: Ed Hall, Michael Schraepfer

The minutes for the meeting of October were approved unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

-Mr. Brian Ronstrom discussed his efforts to create a youth soccer facility at the Unnamed Park at the corner of 42nd Ave. E and Dodge St. He discussed the potential business development/housing development. He also relayed frustration with the dog parks moving forward quicker than the soccer facility project and frustration with the development projects. He wondered whether other sites that were more suitable for the developments had been researched.

-Mr. Michael Chelseth, a Duluth East student/tennis player, made comment on the lack of Tennis courts in the East End/Lakeside area. He was advised to connect with the East Alumni group who have also approached the commission with the same concerns.

-Chester Bowl Mini-Master Plan – Luke Sydow with SAS presented the Mini-Master Plan for Chester Bowl. He discussed the mini-master plan process, features sought after by the public, features incorporated into the mini-master plan. There was some public concern that the process was not open enough and that more input/communication was necessary. It was decided that the December meeting would open with an allotted time for a public meeting on the mini-master plan.

-Keri Cavitt – Presented to the commission the recommendations of the Neighborhood Parks Funds grants committee for the fall 2013 grants. 12 of 26 grant applications were moved forward by the committee. Susan Beasy-Latto moved that grant applications be approved as presented, Tom Albright Seconded the motion. The Parks and Recreation Commission voted unanimously to approve the motion.

NEW BUSINESS: No discussion

COMMISSION COMMITTEES:

-Parks and Facilities – Joel Braun informed the commission that he is setting up a meeting with Dale Sellner to discuss facilities. There was discussion regarding ADA compliance when performing building improvements.

-Trails and Bikeways – There were several meetings with all user groups discussing the 'big picture'.

-Judy reported that a grant was awarded for the DWP Brownfield site

COMMISSIONER AND LIAISON REPORTS:

-Eric Viken updated the commission on the status of the Central School trail easement which was passed by the City Council. He also informed us that the Lester Park trails were nearly completed and would be open in the spring, and that the Mission Creek portion was not finished this fall and will be completed in the Spring.

-Jon Welles discussed the Park Point Small Area Plan and concerns that were raised by former Commissioner Tom Beery. There was discussion regarding the Planning Department's stance on the vacation of street ends. Eric Viken made the following motion – "The Duluth Parks and Recreation Commission strongly recommends that the Planning Commission does not vacate any street ends on Park Point. Reference previous resolution voted on at the June Parks Commission meeting." Andy Holak seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously by the commission.

Judy Gibbs reported on the Gary New Duluth Small Area Planning process and a public meeting where attractive business, raising values, a medical clinic, neighborhood improvement, health and wellness, and the park near Stowe were discussed.

Judy Gibbs discussed the XC Ski Trails Mini-Master Plan – She informed the commission that new maps were being worked on. That Gary Larson is looking to get more skier input on trail layouts from the 'average/intermediate' skiers and not just the XC ski groups who tend to be more advanced skiers. The hope is that work can begin next summer.

Judy Gibbs mentioned the upcoming Hartley Mini-Master plan meeting and how the focus would be on the history of the park, the evolution of the park, and getting input. There would also be an effort to focus on non-trail related issues.

Judy also discussed The Western Duluth Trails Plan. Discussed site visits, problem areas. There will also be meeting with snowmobile groups and work with the Equestrian group to help them organize and focus their efforts with a consultant.

Denette Lynch – public – gave an update on Keene Creek Dog Park and some of the renovations and additions that have taken place. She also shared some frustration with not being able to partner with businesses to sponsor parks due to advertisement issues.

OLD BUSINESS: No discussion

DIVISION MANAGER'S REPORT: provided by Kathy Bergen

MISCELLANEOUS:

ADJORNMENT:

The meeting adjourned on motion of Tom Albright, supported by Susan Beasy-Latto; unanimous.