



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2016

Conference Room 303
City Hall – 411 West First St



I. Call Meeting to Order

Vice President John Schmidt called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

II. Roll Call

Present: John Schmidt, Amanda Crosby, Dean Vogtman, Tiersa Wodash, Tjaard Breeuwer, Michael Schraepfer, Jon Welles, Duluth City Councilor Joel Sipress

Not Present: Ed Hall, Jodi Tervo Roberts, Erik Torch

III. Approval of Previous Meetings' Minutes

Commissioner Breeuwer motioned for approval of September 14, 2016 meeting minutes; second by JC Welles. Unanimously approved.

IV. Presentations

- A. East Duluth Dog Park Naming & Designation – Lindsay Dean, Parks & Recreation (action requested)

Ms. Dean, Parks & Recreation Division Manager, City of Duluth provided an update on the East Duluth Dog Park naming and designation.

Dean: Informed group that 108 comments were received from the naming survey administered to the public and of that, 43 were supportive of "Jean Duluth Dog Park", 23 comments supportive of "Riley Rd Dog Park", 8 comments supportive of "Lynch Dog Park", and 5 comments supportive of "Lakewood Dog Park". Everyone recognizes that this process is not ideal, which is why we have developed a new process for naming parks, which was implemented with Quarry Park earlier this year. In the future, naming will be part of the Mini Master Plan process. Recommended moving forward with the name of Jean Duluth Dog Park.

Wodash: Asked about the other names resulting from the survey.

Dean: Confirmed that Jean Duluth came in first and Riley second from the survey results.

Schraepfer: Expressed that Jean Duluth makes sense from a logistical sense.

Wodash: Requested clarification that the dog park is not in fact on Jean Duluth Road.

Dean: Confirmed that it is not.

Vogtman: Expressed favor of Jean Duluth based on the number of votes and its location.

Welles: Expressed favor of Jean Duluth.



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Bill Lynch (public): Explained to the group that if the naming was based on location it should be Riley Road.

Denette Lynch (public): Explained that people are finding it without a name and expressed concern that the 110 survey participants is not consistent with other dog parks, as those are already in existing parks, whereas this is on the far end of the city in an annexation. Further expressed concern that 65 survey participants were not in support of "Jean Duluth" and there was no organized alternative.

Schmidt: Requested clarification if Ms. Lynch was thinking the name should be Riley Road.

Denette Lynch: Expressed that road names are dull and dreary, providing example that Jean Duluth is a fictional character, and Riley might have been in a murder, therefore names shouldn't be based on 100 years ago. Further expressed that the name could be better and that no other parks are named after roads.

Schraepfer: Provided input that naming after a location is helpful to people, as Jean Duluth is not only a road but an area people are familiar with and that 43 survey participants in its favor says something.

Breeuwer: Questioned if there were other geographical features in the area.

Denette Lynch: Replied that the location is a country area that is not in Lakewood township. Further explained that they planted pine and spruce trees and there is a bluff nearby.

Schmidt: Informed group that the issue at hand is a dog park without a name and a decision is to be made, despite the fact that the process has been somewhat flawed. Expressed concern that Ms. Lynch, who has significantly improved dog parks in the City of Duluth is uncomfortable with the name.

Denette Lynch: Expressed opinion that the process could have been better, however there is fatigue now and people want to be done with the process.

Breeuwer: Requested clarification from Ms. Lynch on her opinion as a dog park user.

Denette Lynch: Suggested to group that the results be narrowed down to 3 to 5 acceptable names to then let park users vote on.

Dean: Confirmed that the Parks Commission E-board decided a survey was the route to take and that 108 comments resulted from this process.

Sipress: Requested clarification of how many people were critical of Jean Duluth from the survey results.

Dean: Confirmed that about 8 were opposed to Jean Duluth.



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Schraepfer: Asked group if they could go through the process and have Ms. Lynch pick five names.

Denette Lynch: Confirmed that she would not pick five names and that the city might hate them.

Sipress: Expressed opinion that Jean Duluth seems like the right name as people know where it is and they are familiar with the location. Further expressed that people who live in the eastern part of Duluth know this as a huge landmark.

Welles: Provided input that as someone who grew up in Duluth, Jean Duluth is a definite landmark and with 40 people in support and 8 against, plurality and location are the indicators which make it a fit.

Breeuwer: Expressed agreement in the concerns about naming after people of the past but agreed Jean Duluth works, despite it not being everyone's favorite.

Welles: Informed group that most people think of Jean Duluth as an area, despite that fact that it may or may not be a fictional character. Recommended that if it gets sent back to the committee, only 2 to 3 names be proposed for feedback.

Schraepfer: Commented that they should include the Lynch name.

Dean: Explained to group that the name Lynch is considered commemorative and the naming committee already decided against that.

Bill Lynch: Suggested that they could name it after Amity Creek which is only 100 feet away from the dog park.

Breeuwer: Provided opinion that Amity Creek would be confusing with Lester Park.

Pamela Page (public): Suggested that the top two names be combined.

MOTION/Second: Welles/Crosby to approve the unnamed dog park in east Duluth located on Riley Road be named Jean Duluth Dog Park. **VOTE: (7-0)**

Breeuwer: Requested from Mr. and Mrs. Lynch if they as users would prefer to postpone the naming.

Denette Lynch: Confirmed to group she would prefer to move forward and get it done with.

Bill Lynch: Confirmed making it Jean Duluth.

Vogtman: Expressed that having the geographic name makes sense for the average Duluthian.

Welles: Explained to group that the formal name would not stop the dog park community from adopting their own informal name.



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Denette Lynch: Confirmed that the group never used the nickname on social media, etc.

B. 2016 Park Maintenance Review – Dale Sellner, Park Maintenance (informational)

Mr. Sellner, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, City of Duluth provided a 2016 park maintenance review.

Sellner: Explained to the group that his area had two major impacts, the loss of Kelly Fleissner and the July wind storm, which was the biggest he's seen since moving here in 1969. Further explained that Park Maintenance went through a report on 2016 performance measures to:

- Update boulevard trees
- Emerald Ash Borer which resulted in treatment of six trees in Canal Park. Explained that they will go out for treatment follow-up at the original zone and the they don't know if Woodland zone will be treated

Sellner: Shared the results of reviewing the 2016 Park Maintenance Initiatives:

- Established two roving crews for neighborhood ball fields to fertilize, aerate, add ag lime and send out east and west crews every day
- No fencing/amenities or turf reconstruction due to storm.
- Crews still doing debris clean-up
- Will move to hazardous control of stumps in boulevards soon
- Graffiti doubled in scope
- Garbage is an ongoing issue and they have people out seven days a week picking up garbage, which is a trail crew and lead worker (4-person group)
- The Lakewalk and Cross City Trails were cracked sealed
- Trail restoration performed at Lincoln Park (see report for full list)
- Worked on natural surface trails for the first time in 15 years as now there is a dedicated staff
- Forestry work group concentrating on ensuring fourth street trees have high success rate
- Now considering Skyline Parkway as a Park, with high expectations for overlooks.
- Made 2/3rds progress at Enger, right below the tower
- Managed Park Point Emerald Ash Borer collection site and had good participation from residents
- Green Corps member helped with invasive species and Emerald Ash Borer removal (Tansy, Knotweed and buckthorn).
- Not able to do anything about Leif Erickson tuck-pointing
- Enger Park brick pathway still a work in progress

Sellner: Shared with group that transferring Volunteer Coordinator Cheryl Skafte to Park Maintenance was a high point of the year, as she's improved lines of communication. Expressed to group that he's always available. Emphasized that weather changes in crazy ways and that he's hopeful the next couple of years will be milder, allowing them to accomplish more things.

Vogtman: Questioned what the City's strategy is for ash trees.



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Sellner: Explained that no available funding for ash removal or replacement planting exists, but that they do inject high value trees like those on the boulevards.

Sipress: Expressed that the boulevard trees aren't the bigger concern, whereas the forest near the headwaters of Miller Creek is largely ash that will likely die and preventative planting would be important there.

Sellner: Informed group that the Emerald Ash Borer convening meeting was held today and that there was more ash in St. Louis County than anywhere else in the country, which may be a pressure to the state or federal government to provide funding.

Vogtman: Shared with group the amount of ash trees along the St. Louis River Corridor and how this would affect what visitors and tourists would see. Expressed his support of a plan here.

Sellner: Explained that this will come up later in tonight's meeting, but that unlike southern Minnesota, Emerald Ash Borer will affect an economic resource here, i.e. paper and tourism.

Sipress: Questioned what will happen to fourth street trees over the winter.

Sellner: Anticipated about a 5% mortality.

Sipress: Shared that the work was largely funded by the Parks Maintenance Supplement and questioned if they'd be in trouble without it.

Sellner: Confirmed no, as emergency dollars from the state were anticipated.

C. Indigenous Commission Resolution – Babbette Sandman, Indigenous Commission and Joel Sipress, City Council (action requested)

Ms. Sandman, Chair of the Indigenous Commission, City of Duluth and Mr. Sipress, City Councilor, City of Duluth presented the commissions resolution.

Sipress: Expressed to group his hopes that this resolution would move forward.

Sandman: Informed that group that the time is now and that when she first got on the Indigenous Commission they didn't have much visibility, however with their rich history and culture they want people to know they're here without a question. Explained that having different parks in the city also listed in the Ojibwa language is what the group is hopeful for, especially its accuracy. Further explained that their seeking approval of a resolution supporting signage that would reflect that fact there are Ojibwa people.

Schmidt: Read resolution to group.

Wodash: Requested confirmation if the proposal was that someone sit on the Parks Commission.



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Sandman: Confirmed yes.

Sipress: Explained the main purpose of the resolution as establishing a process that ensures the Indigenous Commission is involved in future signage.

Vogtman: Thanked Ms. Sandman for attending and explained his participation in the WWFT stakeholders group that had tribal representation which should be the case city-wide. Recommended William Warren's book, "History of the Ojibway People" to the group.

Sipress: Explained that the resolution could be presented to City Council as a city proposal submitted by Parks and Recreation and requested confirmation if that would work.

Dean: Confirmed yes.

Sipress: Provided input that it was more appropriate coming through Parks & Recreation versus Planning.

MOTION/Second: Schmidt/Welles to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission approval of the submittal of the Indigenous Commission's resolution to be a resource for Parks and Recreation to ensure that all indigenous language, symbols and are appropriate. **VOTE: (6-0)**

Welles: Questioned if the Indigenous Commission had a list of current names that are inaccurate.

Sipress: Explained that there is literally no indigenous culture which is why new parks, especially those with new signage are planning on a place for indigenous names.

Schraepfer: Requested confirmation if this included all wayfinding in parks.

Sipress: Confirmed that it does not commit the city to all, just new signage.

Schraepfer: Expressed that a good example would be wayfinding for street ends at Park Point.

Sandman: Explained that the group is in the vision stage and still has a lot of discussion, but that they want to use an ethnographic study so that people know our history.

D. 2016 Western Trails Plan – Andrew Slade (informational)

Mr. Slade, Assistant Manager Parks and Recreation, City of Duluth provided an update on the 2016 Western Waterfront Trails Plan.

Slade: Provided group with an update on the St. Louis River Corridor Trails Plan and explained the process thus far:

- Stakeholders meeting in July
- Two-week long public comment period on August



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- Two Trails Committee meetings in September to review plan

Slade: Explained that the final draft plan is posted on the Parks website and they are now in the closing months of this process. Informed that the plan is still open to public comment online and they anticipate the Parks Commission voting on the plan in November, and if approved, going before City Council in December.

Breeuwer: Thanked Mr. Slade and Judy Gibbs for their attendance at the Trails Committee meetings and the dedicated staff at the City. Explained to the Commissioners who are not on the Trails Committee that they tried to re-work the plan so it provided a clear direction for the future while trying to eliminate odd aspects that are too detailed, leaving things open for future public attention and details.

Vogtman: Shared with group that there was an "D" icon on the map on Clough Island he didn't recognize and the legend did not reference the letter D, either proposed or existing

Schmidt: Questioned if there was a place to find all the comments.

Slade: Explained that comments were received in a number of different formats and there's a PDF file that includes many of the comments

Vogtman: Questioned how the 10mph speed limit would be enforced.

Breeuwer: Provided feedback that the plan shows the use of DWP to be considered for future planning.

V. Commission Committees

- A. Parks and Facilities – meeting date: TBA
Chair - Michael Schraepfer – Jon Welles, Ed Hall, John Schmidt [Dale Sellner]
- B. Administrative (E-Board) – meeting date: 10/20 at 12:00pm in the Parks office
Chair – Ed Hall – John Schmidt, Amanda Crosby [Lindsay Dean]
- C. Trails and Bikeways – Meeting date: 9/28 at 6:30pm
Chair – Tjaard Breeuwer– Tiersa Wodash, Jodi Tervo Roberts, Art Johnston, Mike Casey, Eric Viken [Judy Gibbs]
- D. Recreation Programming (youth and adult) – meeting date: TBA
Chair - Jon Welles – Jodi Tervo Roberts, Erik Torch, Amanda Crosby [Pamela Page]

VI. Commissioner & Liaison Reports

Wodash: Shared that the Active Living Committee reached out to her and Commissioner Tervo Roberts about the short deadline from Super Bowl funding for up to \$50,000 for infrastructure, with the deep winter greenhouse at Denfield as one proposal. Also explained that hardscape infrastructure is teaching kids how to bike, with conversation about possible locations in Central Hillside, Washington Center and a half-court basketball with short hoops. Shared with group her suggestion in doing short hoops at Midtown Park, which is owned by the state.



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Vogtman: Shared with group that major construction coming for Can of Worms, might be an issue.

Wodash: Confirmed yes but that it could be easily done.

Denette Lynch (public): Explained another proposed site is a paved tennis court at Keene Creek (63rd and Bristol), which would tie in with COGGS pump trail proposed for Keene as well.

Wodash: Informed that Shawna Mullen is the contact.

Dean: Suggested that Ms. Mullen and Lisa Luokkala discuss.

VII. New Business

A. 2017 Budget Presentation Dates

Dean: Informed group that last Thursday the full park fund budget was presented to City Council with little change to the budget due to the consistent revenue stream from the \$2.6M parks referendum.

- Parks Fund - October 6
- Property & Facility Management and Park Maintenance - October 24.
- Capital – November 21 (half and half projects, parks funds projects, etc.)

VIII. Old Business

A. Update on St. Louis River Corridor & Neighborhood Park Plans

- Western Waterfront Public Meeting – 11/15 at 5:00pm at Morgan Park.

Vogtman: Questioned how word about this event would be shared.

Dean: Explained regular process.

- DXC GANC: Commissioner Wodash asked for email with details

IX. Division Manager's Report

X. Public Comment

Denette Lynch: Asked when City Council will consider naming proposal.

Dean: Confirmed it would be at the October 24 meeting.

Bill Lynch: Questioned if anyone has thought of putting dumpsters on Skyline at common dump sits as it could save hours of clean-up.

Dean: Informed group that in the recent weeks there has been an increase in patrols on Skyline and they've noticed significant decline in dumping.

Schraepfer: Shared with group that if households don't have utilities the City can condemn it,



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however it's easy for people not to have a garbage service. Shared with group that he had tenants who stored garbage in Superior and there's no problem with illegal dumping because it's part of the city utilities.

Schmidt: Confirmed he would discuss the idea with Dale Sellner.

Denette Lynch: Expressed that it would be easy to work with three garbage companies to identify non-compliers.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned. Moved by Schraepfer. Second by Wodash.

XII. Next meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 9th, 2016 at 5pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, Room 303.