



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of April 12, 2017
Parks & Recreation Annual Meeting

**Spirit Mountain – Grand Avenue Chalet
8551 Grand Avenue**



I. Opening Remarks & Welcoming Guests (5:00 pm)

John Schmidt, President of the Parks and Recreation Commission provided opening remarks and welcomed members of the Parks Commission, City Staff and Community Members to the 2017 Annual Meeting.

Erik Torch, Parks and Recreation Commissioner, presented service recognition award to former Parks Commissioner JC Welles.

John Schmidt presented service recognition award to former Parks Commission President Ed Hall.

II. Strategic Partnerships & Volunteer Groups (5:52 pm)

Cheryl Skafte, Volunteer Coordinator for the City of Duluth thanked community members, park partners and volunteers who lend their time and resources in making our park and trail system a success. Spoke to the importance of strong partnerships between volunteer groups and the City. Introduced key note speakers and the organizations they represent.

III. Celebrating Partnerships in Park Planning & Stewardship

A. Quarry Park – Duluth Climbers Coalition (5:59 pm)

Dave Pagel with Duluth Climbers Coalition provided an overview of the work at Quarry Park and the strong partnership with the City of Duluth in moving the project along from planning to the beginning stages of implementation.

B. Grand Avenue Nordic Center – Duluth Cross Country Ski Club (6:04 pm)

Annalisa Peterson with Duluth Cross-Country Ski Club provided an overview of the work at Spirit Mountain for the Grand Avenue Nordic Center, referencing the proposed ski trails, lighting and snow making possibilities. Explained the role of the City of Duluth and the necessity of a strong partnership in moving the project forward.

C. Lincoln Park – Ecolibrium3 (6:08 pm)

Jodi Slick with Ecolibrium3 presented on the successes at Lincoln Park and the importance of establishing a strong partnership with the City of Duluth. Provided an overview of the Mini-Master Plan for Lincoln Park and updated group on the mission of Ecolibrium3.

IV. Looking Forward (6:16pm)

Jim Filby Williams, Director of Public Administration, City of Duluth, spoke to the many projects that were completed in 2016 and those that are on their way to the implementation phase in 2017, emphasizing the importance of strong partnerships while providing examples of projects under



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each category.

V. Public Comments & Suggestions (6:20 pm)

John Schmidt thanked attendees again and opened the floor for public comments and suggestions.

Brian Nordstrom: Explained involvement with the City of Duluth as a volunteer and member of the Pickleball Association. Complimented the City of Duluth as an Organization and thanked Josh Abraham, Recreation Specialist, for his help at the Woodland and Wheeler courts. Noted the opening of Pickleball courts this summer and encouraged all to check it out.

Larry Sampson: Commented on behalf of the Superior Hiking Trail Association on the cooperative relationship they have with the City and noted how much goes on behind the scenes. Complimented the City on their careful planning consideration when the Duluth Traverse crosses the Superior Hiking Trail.

Dwight Morrison: Spoke on behalf of Wheels on Trails Organization and explained that years ago there were few accessible trails. Complimented the City of Duluth on the improvements and increase in accessible trails.

Doug Stevens: Explained that he is an advocate for Skyline Parkway and wanted to thank the Parks Department and Volunteer Coordinator Cheryl Skafte for all the work done in getting volunteers involved. Extended invitation to others and hopes many people help out at the April 24th event.

Denette Lynch: Thanked the City for their help in keeping dog park projects moving along, noting the third dog park that was opened in 2016. Mentioned the possibility for using hockey rinks for dog parks in the future.

Mike Casey: Spoke on behalf of Friends of West Duluth Parks and Trails, thanking City Staff for their work and extending his appreciation for their time and hard work.

John Schmidt: Recognized Mayor Larson and provided final remarks.

VI. Adjourn (6:29 pm)

Presentation portion of Annual Meeting adjourned at 6:29 pm and was followed by Parks and Recreation Staff tabling.

VII. Next meeting

The next Parks and Recreation Commission monthly meeting will on Wednesday May 10, 2017 at 5 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers.