



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Wednesday – June 12, 2013 -- 5:00 p.m.



**MEETING LOCATION:
Spirit Mountain Chalet
8551 Grand Ave**

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Welcome by Briana Johnson, Marketing Director, Spirit Mountain
- IV. Approval of May 8 minutes

- V. Commission Committees
 - a. Parks and Facilities
Chair - Joel Braun – Jon Welles, Ed Hall, [Dale Sellner]
 - b. Administrative (E-Board)
Chair – Jon Welles – Eric Viken, Ed Hall, [Kathy Bergen]
 - c. Trails and Bikeways
Chair – Tom Beery - Eric Viken, Andy Holak, [Judy Gibbs], [Art Johnson]
 - Duluth Traverse
 - Outdoor Alliance
 - d. Recreation Programming – youth and adult
Chair - **NEEDED** – Susan Beasy Latto, Andy Holak, Erica Erickson, Tom Beery, [Pamela Page]

- VI. Commissioner & Liaison Reports
 - a. Park Point Small Area Plan – Tom Beery
 1. Comments from Peter Van Dyken
 - b. Dog Park Task Force – Jon Welles

- VII. New Business
 - a. Opportunities to purchase land that will enhance park facilities: Wheeler, Hartley, and trails by Hawk Ridge
 - b. Commissioners interested in working on a Task Force for improvements to Lake Place Park
 - c. Proposed City right of way of West First St through Central Park (lower Enger Park) – more details will be presented at our July 10 meeting.

- VIII. Old Business
 - a. Statement of Parks Commission's position on the Small Area Plan street access points
 - b. Update committee membership and chairs

- IX. Division Manager's Report
 - a. Segways on the Lakewalk
 - b. Rezoning properties to P-1
 - c. 2014 budget

- X. Speakers/Public Comment

- XI. Adjournment

E-Board Meetings

Fridays
12 noon @ City Hall

June 21
July 26
August 23
September 20
October 25
November 22
December 20



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting of May 8, 2013



Chairman Welles called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM at the Lake Superior Zoo.

Members Present: Thomas Albright, Thomas Beery, Joel Braun, Erica Erickson, Edwin Hall, Susan Beasy-Latto, Michael Schraepfer and Jon Welles

Member(s) Excused: Eric Viken, Andy Holak

Also Attending: Art Johnston, Duluth City School Board Liaison and Kathy Bergen, Parks and Recreation Division Manager.

Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission were welcomed to the Lake Superior Zoo by Sam Maida, C.E.O. of the Lake Superior Zoological Society. Mr. Maida provided the Commission an informative update on the condition of the Zoo, with particular focus on the work to repair the damage done by last June's flooding.

The minutes for the meeting of March 13, 2013 and the Annual Meeting of April 3, 2013 were approved on motion of Thomas Beery, second by Erica Erickson and a unanimous vote.

PRESENTATIONS:

UMD Student Project Related to Lake Place Park: Professor Jennifer Webb, a Faculty Member in the Arts and Design Department at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, and three students from her Urban Planning Project Class, presented a plan they had developed for Lake Place Park as part of their urban planning class. The focus of the plan was on the aesthetics, functionality and security elements of Lake Place Park, with an emphasis on increasing usable green space, an enhanced tie between Lake Walk and Downtown, and new signage. The Commission thanked the students for their work, and requested that copies of the plan be sent to Members of the Commission and the Parks and Recreation Division, so that the recommendations in the plan could be evaluated as part of the Commission's long range planning for Lake Place Park.

Memorial Park Mini- Master Plan: Kathy Bergen presented the Parks and Recreation Division's proposed Master Plan for Memorial Park, a 4.6-acre park located at the northeast corner of Grand Avenue and N. Central Avenue in Duluth. Copies of the plan were distributed to the Commission and will be made a part of the minutes of this meeting. This Plan had received the input and approval of citizens in the Memorial Park area of West Duluth, as well as the endorsement of the Duluth School Board, since part of the park is adjacent to the new Laura MacArthur Elementary School. The Plan had also been the subject of a public hearing and extensive discussion by Commission members at the December 12, 2012 meeting of the Commission.

After further discussion, upon motion by Commissioner Albright and second by Commissioner Beery, the Commission unanimously approved the Master Plan for Memorial Park, and recommended its approval by the Duluth City Council. It was noted that the Commission had approved specific Master Plans for Brighton Beach Park, Lower Chester Park and Washington Park at previous meetings.

Spring 2013 Neighborhood Parks Fund Grants:

Kathy Bergen presented recommendations for the Spring 2013 Neighborhood Parks Grants from the Parks and Recreation Review Committee. The Review Committee, composed of 11 appointees - 4 from the Legacy Endowment Fund Advisory Board, 4 from the Parks and Recreation Commission, 2 from the Duluth Parks and Recreation Division and 1 from the City Council, recommended approval of the following 18 grants from the Neighborhood Parks Fund, totaling \$79,880.

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Program Name</u>	<u>Req Amt</u>	<u>Rec Amt</u>
Arrowhead Youth Soccer Association	Western Duluth Soccer Program	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee Shores	Mountain Bike Trail System Sustainability Upgrades	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee Shores	Trail Signage for Existing COGGS Multi-Use Trail Systems	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Duluth Community Sailing Association	Purchase Replacement 13' Laser Class Sailboat	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
Duluth Cross-Country Ski Club	Spirit/Magney XC Ski Trail Rock Removal and Grading	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Duluth Cross-Country Ski Club	Grooming Equipment for XC Ski Trails	\$2,450.00	\$2,450.00
Duluth Eastern Little League Baseball	Eastern Little League Park Repair and Maintenance	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00
East Hillside Patch	Summer Parks Sampler	\$3,925.00	\$3,925.00
Friends of Keene Creek Dog Park	Dog Park Improvement	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Friends of the Lakewalk	Informational Kiosks Along the Lakewalk	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Lincoln Park Citizen Patrol	Safer Harrison Community Center	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Men as Peacemakers	Champions Building Champions: Athletes Helping Youth Succeed	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Piedmont Hockey Association	Building, Grounds, Accessibility, and Rink Improvement Project	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
The Salvation Army - Duluth	Rookie Basketball Association 3-On-3 Tournament	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Valley Youth Center	Outdoor Youth Garden	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Wise Fool Shakespeare	Lake Place Players	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Woodland Hockey Association	Woodland Outdoor Public Rink Refurbishment	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Neighborhood Youth Services	Beach Sweeps and Field Trips	\$4,005.00	\$4,005.00
Totals		\$82,380.00	\$79,880.00

Kathy Bergen reminded the Commission that in the Spring of 2012, nine Neighborhood Parks Fund Grants had been approved for \$37,800 and six Grants for \$26,276 in the Fall of 2012. \$86,000 was available for the 2013 Spring Grants. Funds not granted will be carried over for the Fall 2013 Grant awards.

During discussion of the recommendations, it was noted that the grant recipients represented a wide range of programs and locations throughout the City of Duluth.

Upon motion by Commissioner Beasy-Latto and second by Commissioner Erikson the Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommended 2013 Spring Neighborhood Parks Grants as presented by the Review Committee, and submit them to the Duluth City Council for its consideration and approval.

Park Point Small Area Management Plan:

Commissioner Beery led an extensive discussion of the status of the Park Point Small Area Plan, with particular emphasis on transportation issues and access to City Parks land for recreation purposes. There had been a public meeting to discuss these and related issues on March 27, 2013 at the Lafayette Community Center. There are regular meetings of the Park Point community on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at the Lafayette Community Center that are open to the public.

No specific recommendations related to the plan have been developed to-date. The presentations at the meeting and ensuing discussion raised a number of issues and questions that should prove helpful to the Parks and Recreation Division as it develops, with the City and the Park Point Neighborhood, a proposal, with specific criteria, for public access to City Parks land on Park Point, proposed public signage and the level of City Parks services to be provided at the points of access. It was agreed that a background paper on all these issues would be developed and circulated to the Commission prior to its consideration of any proposal on this subject at its June 12 meeting.

COMMISSION COMMITTEES:

Recreation Programming – Youth and Adult:

Commissioner Erikson reported that this committee did meet to discuss and recommend plans for announcing the availability of **Parks Commission Grants for Community Programs and Facilities** funded through the pull-tab tax. The committee's recommendations will be circulated shortly. There is approximately \$20,000 available for these grants.

"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:

Chairman Welles provided an update on the work of the Dog Park Task Force, which anticipates bringing recommendations on future dog parks in the City of Duluth to the Commission at its next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Recommendations regarding membership on the Commission's Committees will be presented at the next meeting of the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS:

The presentations at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were viewed as excellent and informative. Appreciation was extended to all who worked on these presentations. Disappointment was expressed at the scarcity of public attendance at the Annual Meeting, an issue to be addressed prior to the 2014 Annual Meeting.

DIVISION MANAGER'S REPORT:

The City is considering whether the use of Seqways should be authorized on the Lake Walk. Kathy Bergen asked for input from Members of the Commission. A discussion ensued, with no decision on this issue made by the Commission.

The 2013 **Good News from Parks and Recreation** will be distributed after the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT/SPEAKERS:

There were no additional public comments or speakers beyond those received during the discussion of the matters on the Agenda above.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM, on motion of Commissioner Braun, second by Commissioner Beery, and a unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Edwin K. Hall, Secretary