



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of June 12, 2019
Parks & Recreation Annual Meeting

City Hall – Council Chamber



I. Call Meeting to Order

President Crosby called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Amanda Crosby, Jill Joyce, Erik Torch, Tjaard Breeuwer, Dennis Isernhagen, Britt Rohrbaugh, Dudley Edmondson, David Demmer, Jenny Peterson.

Not present: David Kirby (ISD 709 School Board Liaison), Frank Jewell (St. Louis County Board Liaison), Em Westerlund (City Council Liaison).

III. Approval of May 8th Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Torch motioned for approval of the May 8th meeting minutes; second by Commissioner Edmondson. Unanimously approved.

IV. Presentations

- A. Revisions to the Brighton Beach Mini-Master Plan (Informational) – Lisa Luokkala, Stewardship Assistant Manager

Luokkala provided updates on the Brighton Beach Master Plan revisions. Highlighted the importance of the park will be that users will have water access. Stated shoreline resiliency being a goal of this project as well as providing an access that fits the community. Referenced the history of the area, which held a camp and designated camping sites. Stated the 2012 Master Plan calls for a reconfiguration of the roadway. Displayed a document that shows the plan from 2012 that includes the roadway being separated from the pedestrian path. Reflected on the grant award received in 2015 from the Transportation Alternatives Fund, which will be used for 2020. Indicated the roadway is City owned, and is overseen by Streets and Engineering. Mentioned Engineering is working to reconfigure the roadway. Stated FEMA has been involved with this project, therefore, other decisions can be made outside of Parks and Recreation. Displayed the preliminary design alternative (posted on the website). Reflected on the Open House that was hosted on June 3rd which gathered information from the public on how the park is used. Shared an inventory of existing memorial benches, where 2 have been lost due to storms. Stated that the City will be in contact with the donors on the potential for relocation of benches with the plan calling for an increased amount of greenspace.

Stated the City is looking into installing a permanent vault toilet, but more assessments need to occur to see if this is feasible for the landscape. Highlighted a designated path will be installed for those using the canoe and kayak launch. Shared the footprint of the playground will remain in the same location. Luokkala opened the floor for questions from the Parks and Recreation Commission.



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Edmondson questioned if the bike path will be completed this year. Luukkala indicated funds were secured for the trail in 2015, but it will start in late 2020 and could take two years to complete. Stated City Engineers will need to go to full design this fall. Edmondson questioned if the reroute will separate the cars and pedestrians in 2020. Luukkala indicated that closure of car access will likely happen in order to complete the project. Peterson questioned the distance of the road. Luukkala mentioned it is just shy of a mile. Peterson questioned what the distance would be for the new road. Luukkala indicated it would be reduced by a tenth of a mile with improved sightlines. Demmer questioned what the pink dashed line is on the map. Luukkala confirmed it is the Historic Bridle Trail Reroute (Approximate). Torch questioned the size of the waves during the storm surge. Luukkala indicated she does not have this information available for today's meeting. Luukkala shared that the Planning Commission will vote on the new roadway in the future, rather than Parks and Recreation. Edmondson questioned if we could move parks infrastructure even further than what is displayed on the map. Luukkala indicated she will work to see if there is an opportunity to move infrastructure. Luukkala mentioned we are gathering feedback through public comment through June 13th for the design. Luukkala also shared results of the survey will be posted online.

Public Comment

Bill Lynch: Questioned if any work has been done to calm the waters in this area. Shared that some oceans use jacks, similar to what is done in St. Johns runway.

Luukkala: Indicated this study has not been done at this time.

Bill Lynch: Indicated this is an ongoing problem for this park. Shared it would be best to take care of the waves before they hit land.

V. Commissioner Committees

- A. Administrative (E-board) – meeting date: Thursday, June 27th at noon at the Parks Office
Chair – Amanda Crosby, Jill Joyce, Tjaard Breeuwer [Alicia Watts, Lisa Luukkala, Jim Filby Williams]

VI. Commissioner & Liaison Reports

VII. New Business

VIII. Old Business

- A. Western Waterfront Trail Mini-Master Plan Draft – Segment 1 Update (Informational) – Lisa Luukkala, Stewardship Assistant Manager



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Luukkala shared the project began in 2016 and a presentation was given last year asking the Parks Commission to make a formal recommendation. Shared and displayed the overview of the plan – which is to determine the future recreational uses between Irving neighborhood and Chambers Grove. Indicated 5 water access points were studied which were the adjacent neighborhoods access points. Displayed the 7 trail segments and mentioned there is little room within segment 1 because of the railway. Stated the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation (BNSF) will not accommodate, as a result, there is not a feasible financial option for this segment of the trail. Stated this segment alone will cost \$1.4 million dollars to complete. Shared segment 1 will be omitted from the Master Plan, where we will not be moving forward with a recommendation. Jessica Peterson thanked Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad for the ask with BNSF. Indicated this is an unfortunate decision that we will not be moving forward with this segment at this time. Luukkala shared the hope to look into this again in the future and seek permission from BNSF.

Crosby questioned what the new access point will be within segment 2. Luukkala confirmed this would be at Munger Landing. Demmer questioned if there would be an alternative route provided. Luukkala indicated there is currently not.

Public Comment

Mike Casey (public): Indicated he is representing the Chair of the Friends of Western Duluth Parks and Trails. Shared the City has known this information for month. Indicated the Lakewalk received \$1.2-2 million for 5/8th of a mile. Stated this is a long-term plan, and there are alternative routes. Mentioned this is not an impediment for the Western Waterfront Trail users. Mentioned a rail and trail system is the ultimate prize for the West Community.

XIII. Division Report

Public Comment

Dan Proctor: Reflected on his volunteer work on the Chester Park trails. Indicated the area received major maintenance over 30 years ago. Shared the groomer is now larger, making it challenging to get the groomer through safely and is damaging the wet lands. Stated the Master Plan has three solutions for walkers and share with skiers – eliminate skiers from trails, create separate walking trail, continue sharing the trail. Reflected on the four-year trial period, where only two options were given. Mentioned a trail camera was placed on the trail. Stated the ski trail is not used heavily in comparison to other areas on the trail system. Stated there is an opportunity that walkers could still walk on the ski trails. Indicated the signage is not clear defining the type of use on the trail. Shared a proposal will come to the Parks and Recreation Commission to vote on the future use of the trails.

Breeuwer: Questioned if the commission will receive the results of the trial period.

Jessica Peterson: Indicated being newer to the Division, she will need to spend more time with the Chester Master Plan. Mentioned the process will be slowed down, and a decision will not be made in



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order to look at all types of uses.

Denette Lynch: Questioned why Quarry is receiving signage before Chambers Grove. Indicated there is not wayfinding signs along Grand Avenue. Questioned why Riverside did not receive signs. Reflected on the scholarship program for the summer camp program. Indicated she has not seen information advertised. Stated the \$300 per family is a logistically complicated process to try and track how much credit is left per family. Mentioned the fee-based programming is confusing.

Jessica Peterson: Thanked Denette for bringing up the growing programming initiative charged by the Mayor. Shared that historically, there has not been the luxury to provide the programming that we have today. Shared there is not a fee for all programs, and the programs that do have a charge are for cost recovery purposes. Indicated our software will track the amount of funding per family for programming scholarships. Stated there is an opportunity to change the fee structure through City Council on an annual basis.

Denette Lynch commented many people are not aware of the scholarship opportunity.

Mike Casey questioned what the E Board Meeting is.

Crosby: Indicated this meeting is similar to an Agenda Session.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.

XIV. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 10th, 2019 at the City Hall Room 303