



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2019



City Hall – Council Chambers

I. Call Meeting to Order

President Crosby called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Amanda Crosby, Erik Torch, Jenny Peterson, Tjaard Breeuwer, David Demmer, Britt Rohrbaugh.

Not Present: Jill Joyce, Dudley Edmondson, Noah Kramer, David Kirby (ISD 709 School Board Liaison), Frank Jewell (St. Louis County Board Liaison), Em Westerlund (City Council Liaison).

III. Approval of November 13 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Torch motioned for approval of the November 13 meeting minutes; second by Commissioner Rohrbaugh. Unanimously approved.

IV. Presentations

A. St Louis River Natural Area Management Plan (Informational) – Diane Desotelle, Natural Resources Coordinator

Desotelle referred to the public process of the St Louis River Natural Area Management Plan, which will be approved by the Planning Commission in February 2020 and the City Council in March 2020. Reflected on the native plant community survey results, which included 17 distinct native plant communities as well as endangered species. Indicated a raptor survey was completed. Highlighted the four trout streams within the natural area.

Commissioner Questions

Demmer questioned if the costs are annual. Desotelle indicated that the estimates came from Community Action Duluth that will cover the next two to three years. Demmer questioned what the long-range plan is for the area. Desotelle indicated the goal is to acquire all of the DNAP property. Indicated it would take a supermajority vote to take away the status of a designation.

V. Commissioner Committees

VI. Commissioner & Liaison Reports

VII. New Business

A. 2020 Meeting Schedule (Action Item) – Jessica Peterson, Manager

Demmer motioned to approve the 2020 Meeting Schedules. Second by Rohrbaugh. Motion carries.

B. Term Review (Informational) – Jessica Peterson, Manager

Jessica Peterson indicated two Parks and Recreation Commission seats are open including District



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5 and District 2.

C. Proposal for Golf Sub Committee (Action Item) – Jessica Peterson, Manager

Jessica Peterson indicated the board for the Friends of Duluth Public Golf have provided feedback to the document along with review from the City Attorney's office. Indicated City staff will not be voting members on the committee.

Commissioner Comments

Crosby questioned if a special meeting could be called if needed. Jessica Peterson indicated this is possible. Crosby questioned what type of voting would occur and how does this tie with the Parks and Recreation Commission. Jessica Peterson indicated it may seem vague at this point, but the committee has the latitude to set the agenda and reach out to experts on a certain topic.

Jennifer Peterson questioned how many people can vote on the board. Jessica Peterson indicated only commissioners on the board can vote.

Breeuwer shared the importance of voting tonight in order to not delay the process further.

Jennifer Peterson indicated she would like the committee charge to change because it is vague and weak. Shared the committee should be a more action orientated committee. Proposed two changes to the charge.

David Demmer indicated that title states for the green space, not just golf courses. Shared the committee members are narrow and not broad enough. Jessica Peterson indicated other stakeholders are more than welcome to provide feedback, but the charge of the committee is to focus on golf.

Crosby shared if any members are interested, they are more than welcome to apply.

Demmer indicated there is a need for a master plan. Questioned if the members will set the agenda.

Jessica Peterson indicated they would set the agenda.

Jennifer Peterson proposed another amendment to include more of an opportunity to include others within the group.

Torch indicated the formation of this group was very tactical and intentional to provide a more formalized process to improve public golf. Shared the concern by the comments of creating a master plan for golf because it throws away the work that was completed by the Golf Findings Committee.



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Jim Filby Williams indicated the creation of a golf committee is a unique commitment for staff, and is very difficult to justify. Stated Duluth has many other programs and groups that serve even more people, and none of these groups get even a single meeting per year. Shared the Zoo and Spirit Mountain have their own organizations, directors, and staff where they do not report to others. Shared the work completed has been similar to a master plan, which was a Golf Citizen Advisory Committee – that was mayoral appointed. Shared the Golf Findings Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission, and the City Council all approved the findings plan.

Jennifer Peterson indicated she is not ignoring the work that was done on the Golf Findings document. Suggested there could be a broader group that would aid in this development. Shared there needs to be a plan in order to guide for grants and raising funds.

Demmer questioned if there were any RFPs for the housing development.

Jim Filby Williams indicated there are a half of dozen who were seriously interested, but more information needs to be provided. Shared Planning and Development staff are still talking about it, and it will be reposted to define the needs.

Crosby tabled the motion until the January meeting until the Parks and Recreation Commission could meet consensus on what is being asked. Demmer second. Unanimously approved.

VIII. Old Business

A. Golf Operations Update (Informational) – Jessica Peterson, Manager

XIII. Division Report

Torch requested an update on what is going on in our parks for 2020 in a future meeting.

Public Comment

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

XIV. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 8, 2019 in the City Hall - Conference Room 330.