



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes June 9, 2021

Webex



I. Call Meeting to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Present: Amanda Crosby, David Demmer, Tjaard Breeuwer, Jenny Peterson, Barb Darland, Natalie Chin, Noah Kramer, Jill Joyce, Kala Pedersen, City Council Liaison – Arik Forsman, St. Louis County Commissioner – Ashley Grimm

Not Present: Britt Rohrbaugh, Noah Kramer, Jill Lofald – ISD 709 School Board Liaison

III. Approval of April 14 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Breeuwer motioned for approval of the April 14 meeting minutes; second by Commissioner Joyce. Unanimously approved.

IV. Presentations

A. Baywalk Project Update (Informational) Erik Birkeland, Property and Facilities Manager

Darland questioned if large semi-trucks will still be able to utilize behind the DECC. Birkeland confirmed this will occur. Stated the plaza will not look like a roadway, but it will be useable for semi's and emergency vehicles.

Demmer questioned if transportation has weighed in on this project. Birkeland stated transportation engineers from SEH are involved as well as city transportation engineers.

Joyce questioned how much area is park property and how it would be impacted. Birkeland stated the Baywalk portion along the seawall are city infrastructure, but would need to look and see how it is zoned.

B. Master Planning Overview (Informational) Jess Peterson, Manager

Demmer questioned why the guiding principles from the 2010 Master Plan are not included under the new principles for the upcoming plan. Peterson stated they are nested within the new guiding principles, which includes cost recovery and community.

Pedersen questioned how we could incorporate non-park users to gain a further understanding what the barriers are.

Jenny Peterson questioned if there was something the caught their proposal to make the selection of Design Workshop. Jess Peterson stated there was a rigorous scoring system, which includes 5 scoring categories, while including scores from each steering committee individual. Highlighted inclusion and equity were very apparent with Design Workshop, who also took the time to review the city's 2035 Comp Plan.

Crosby stated two Parks and Recreation Commissioners will be appointed on the steering committee, which includes Commissioner Chin and Commissioner Rohrbaugh.

Crosby motioned to approve Commissioner Rohrbaugh and Commissioner Chin to be included on the steering committee for the upcoming Master Planning process. Second Darland. Motion carries.



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V. Commissioner Committees

Administrative (E-Board) meeting date: Thursday, July 29 at noon via Webex
Amanda Crosby, Tjaard Breeuwer [Jess Peterson, Alicia Watts, Jessica Haig, Jim Filby Williams]

Public Golf Committee – Monday, June 15 at 5 p.m., virtual meeting on Webex
David Demmer, Noah Kramer [Jess Peterson, Todd Armbruster, Jessica Haig, Jim Filby Williams]

VI. Commissioner & Liaison Reports

A. Public Golf Committee Report (Informational) Commissioner Demmer, Chair of Committee

Demmer stated a meeting took place recently to kick off the Enger Golf Course Renovation project. Shared this meeting reviewed the status of the current amenities. Highlighted there were two public meetings with great discussion, which included accessibility. Stated the next committee meeting will take place next week.

- VII. New Business
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. Division Report

Jess Peterson stated there are seasonal and temporary staff hiring challenges, across the board. Indicated we are down 35% for staffing at Park Maintenance at this time. Indicated there is a large flux of special events in short notice, and the city is running to keep up. Highlighted the Park Point Beach House updates, which is attracting more reservations for weddings. Stated the number of requests for building use is currently low at this time, as most people are looking for outdoor space locations. Indicated buildings will reopen based on demand.

Demmer questioned the recent decision of the Cross City Trail. Filby Williams stated the policy and plan changes of the Cross City Trail route was in consultation and support of a large number of advocacy groups. Stated there is prioritization for the lower route in regards to accessibility, which is a reallocation from 2023 funding.

Jess Peterson shared the Canal Park portion of the Lakewalk is officially open as of today.

Public Comment

Jim Sandness commented on Duluth Public Golf.

- X. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

- XI. Next Meeting
The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 11.