



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes February 8, 2023

Duluth City Hall, Council Chambers



I. Call Meeting to Order

President Crosby called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Amanda Crosby, David Demmer, Natalie Chin, Kala Pedersen, Tjaard Breeuwer, Jenny Peterson, Sarah Beehler, Britt Rohrbaugh

Not Present: Annie Harala – St. Louis County Commissioner, Kelly Durick Eder – ISD 709 School Board Liaison, Noah Hobbs – City Council Liaison

III. Old Business

Commissioner Crosby motioned to amend the order of the agenda. Commissioner Demmer second. Unanimously approved.

A. 2023 E-Board Election (Action Requested) Jessica Peterson, Manager

Demmer nominated Crosby as President.

Pedersen nominated Demmer as Vice President.

Crosby nominated Pedersen as Secretary.

Commissioner Peterson motioned to approve Crosby as President, Demmer as Vice President, and Pedersen as Secretary. Commissioner Rohrbaugh second.

Commissioner Peterson stated that typically there are term limits for officers on boards and commissions. Stated that generally it is best practice to rotate leadership on a committee and asked the Commissioners to consider giving other people the opportunity to take leadership roles in the group.

Motion to approve slate of officers. Unanimously approved. Motion carries.

IV. Approval of the January 11 Meeting Minutes

Manager Peterson stated that the technology in Room 330 did not sufficiently pick up the audio of the meeting. Stated that the minimum requirements were met for the minutes per Clerks. Stated that the majority of meetings for the year will be held in Council Chambers. Stated that there are no plans to upgrade the technology in Room 330.

President Crosby questioned how it worked if someone remembers a comment that was missed, could they be added to the minutes later. Manager Peterson stated that she would follow up with this question to the Clerks office.

Commissioner Demmer questioned if it was possible to propose amendments to the minutes during this meeting. Manager Peterson stated that if amendments would add to the content, she would like to refer the question to the Clerks office.

Commissioner Demmer proposed an amendment to the minutes addressing Director Filby Williams' comment that golfers had approached the planning process with a sense of entitlement. Stated that he had pointed out that this was a problem and a pointed remark from the department director and requested that his response be included in the public record.



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Manager Peterson asked for specific guidance on what Commissioners are seeking to add or amend in the minutes. Stated that minutes are not intended to be a transcript. Stated that it is difficult for staff to capture what information is more or less meaningful than others.

Commissioner Peterson proposed an amendment, vote changed to a nay. Commissioner Pedersen requested her vote changed to a yea. Commissioner Peterson stated that minutes should portray the breadth of the conversation. Stated that most of the minutes are staff comments and wishes that commissioners' comments be more included.

Commissioner Peterson provided a written document summarizing the comments she made during the previous meeting, which she requests be added to the previous meeting minutes, including her amendment to the motion made in January agenda item 7A.

Commissioner Demmer stated that tabling the minutes until next meeting would allow staff time to amend the minutes for the next meeting.

Commissioner Demmer motioned to table the approval of the January 11 meeting minutes. Commissioner Breeuwer second.

Commissioner Breeuwer questioned if Commissioner Peterson would be comfortable having others vote on approving the minutes in her absence at the March meeting or if she would be able to review the amended minutes before the meeting.

Commissioner Peterson stated that she would prefer to vote tonight.

Manager Peterson stated that she has no concerns adding Commissioner Peterson's comments or swapping the yea/nay vote. Stated that she needs to follow up with the Clerks office on adding Commissioner Demmer's comments, as they are not written to attach at the time of this meeting.

Motion to table the approval of the January 11 meeting minutes. Commissioner Peterson nay, all else yea. 7-1 vote, motion carries.

V. Presentations

A. Duluth Climbers Coalition (Informational) Dave Pagel and Nick Fleming

Presentation by Dave Pagel and Nick Fleming sharing updates on the now installed and functioning ice farming operation at Quarry Park.

President Crosby questioned if Fleming dug all the trenches himself. Fleming stated that he dug 1200 ft of the trench; volunteers helped with a 300 ft section.

B. 2022 Permitting Recap (Informational) Chris Severson, Parks Permit Coordinator

Commissioner Pedersen questioned if people have to apply for two permits when getting an alcohol permit along with a rental. Severson stated that they are separate, as some people do not want an alcohol permit. Alcohol permits are necessary because they generate a lot of garbage, and also to ensure that these events are within City Code as far as alcohol in a park.

Commissioner Chin questioned if there is any data on events being cancelled due to weather, etc.



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Severson stated that there are few cancellations. Stated that special events usually have backup dates. Private events are booked not too far in advance, so are not cancelled much. Weddings are sometimes cancelled.

Commissioner Beehler questioned what is required for busker permits. Severson stated that in park spaces, there are certain locations where buskers are allowed. Stated that only 40 permits are issued due to space constraints.

C. Lakewalk Interpretive Plan (Informational) Cliff Knettel, Senior Parks Planner

Commissioner Breeuwer questioned if the signage will follow the signage and wayfinding plan guidelines. Knettel stated that the signage standards will be carried through the interpretive project for the most part.

Commissioner Breeuwer questioned if wayfinding will include on-ground wayfinding as well. Knettel stated that different types of applications on the ground can be used to direct people. Stated that it will be looked into carefully, especially in Canal Park, as that is a mix of private/public property.

VI. **Commissioner Committees**

Administrative (E-Board) meeting date: Thursday, March 2 at noon, Parks Conference Room
Amanda Crosby, David Demmer, Kala Pedersen [Jessica Peterson, Bridget Erickson]

VII. **Commissioner & Liaison Reports**

VIII. **New Business**

IX. **Old Business**

A. 2023 E-Board Election (Action Requested) Jessica Peterson, Manager
This item was moved to the top of the agenda.

X. **Division Report**

Assistant Manager Alicia Watts commented on Cold Front, which happened the previous weekend. Stated that it was the biggest event turnout so far since it moved to Bayfront, with over 2500-3000 attendees. Stated that new activities were offered and people were spread out using the entire space.

XI. **Public Comment**

Commissioner Peterson stated she will be resigning from the Commission.

XII. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

XIII. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 8 at 5:00 p.m., Council Chambers.

ATTACHMENT: COMMISSIONER PETERSON SUBMITTED COMMENTS

February 8, 2023 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Peterson to amend the minutes of the January 11, 2023 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission, VII, New Business, item A. Discontinuation of Public Golf Committee to include the following:

Commissioner Peterson cited two major reasons for her opposition to the motion to discontinue the Public Golf Committee: 1) While the \$5-6 million renovation plan is underway at Enger, a consistent, well-informed committee will provide more effective guidance than periodic meetings with anyone who randomly shows up. 2) There continues to be a deep lack of distrust between the city and the golf community. Disbanding the golf committee breaks a commitment to the golf community made in the 2018 council-approved resolution to establish a "permanent golf advisory committee"; discontinuing the golf committee will further erode trust. Peterson noted that the Committee's current structure which allows only the two Commissioners to make motions and vote has not allowed golfers to be full-pledged members of the committee. Peterson proposed that the public golf committee be restructured, or a consistent advisory board be created, that would allow golfers to fully participate in guiding the future of public golf in Duluth.