



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes January 14, 2026

Duluth City Hall, Conference Room 330



I. Call Meeting to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Present: Kala Pedersen, Beth Olson, Josie LaPorte, Dave Cizmas, Terrance Lovejoy, Brooke Marinan, Connie Cummins, Tim Meyer, Hailey Sigafus

Not Present: David Demmer, Sarah Beehler, Jordon Johnson – City Council Liaison, Ashley Grimm – St. Louis County Board Liaison, Henry Banks – School Board Liaison

III. Approval of the December 10 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Meyer motioned to approve the December 10 meeting minutes. Commissioner LaPorte second. Unanimously approved. Motion carries.

IV. Presentations

Meyer moved to amend the agenda to change the presentation order. Sigafus second. Unanimously approved. Motion carries.

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

Meyer questioned if there is any room to adjust park fees to bring in more revenue. Peterson stated that fees are looked at as a part of the overall budget picture. Stated that the fee schedule is annually submitted to and approved by Council. Stated that many factors are considered methodically when setting fees. Stated that raising fees too much could out-price some users, actually decreasing revenue to the City. Stated that a greater impact could be from increasing use rather than increasing fees.

Cizmas questioned if there is an opportunity to increase enforcement capacity for Parks. Peterson stated that enforcement is a challenge across the board on parks-related issues. Stated that there have been various types of enforcement models and programs attempted over the years. Stated that the gap is truly a funding gap to have the resources allocated to focus on the park system. Stated that another avenue to explore is administrative policy adjustments. Stated that peer influence has a strong impact. Severson stated that there are kiosk signs at pavilions that are updated weekly with rentals, which provides education on securing a permitted reservation.

Sigafus questioned why the revenue increased so dramatically over 5 years for special events. Severson stated that there have been some fee increases from year to year. Stated that trail events also pay a user fee per participant in their events. Stated that non-resident permits have higher fees.

B. Drift Toppers Snowmobile Club (Informational) Scott Marshall and Dan Hamilton

Meyer questioned if there are any events that highlight snowmobiling in Duluth. Hamilton stated that the Amsoil race is held at Spirit Mountain.

Cummins questioned if other uses are allowed on snowmobile trails. Andrews stated that many trails are categorized as multi-use. Stated that there is an interactive map on the City website that indicate which trails are multi-use, and which have a designated use.



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Cizmas questioned if they have had success on getting interest from the next generation of volunteers. Marshall stated that there has been a lot of success in getting younger people and families engaged.

Lovejoy questioned if snowmobiles are allowed anywhere that is not designated as a snowmobile trail. Marshall stated that if it is not a snowmobile trail, they should not be riding on them. Stated that there are "stay on trail" signs. Stated that trails run along private property and trail access could be revoked.

V. Commission Committees

Administrative (E-Board) meeting date: Thursday, February 5 at noon, Parks Conference Room - David Demmer, Kala Pedersen, Josie LaPorte [Jessica Peterson, Bridget Erickson]

VI. Commissioner & Liaison Reports

VII. New Business

VIII. Old Business

IX. Division Report

X. Public Comment

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 11 at 5:00 p.m., Council Chambers.