



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Wednesday – January 9, 2013 -- 5:00 p.m.



MEETING LOCATION:
Central Hillside Community Center
12 E 4th St

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of December 12 minutes
- IV. Presentations
 - a. Lowell to Lakewalk Trail – James Gittemeier (informational only)
- V. Commission Committees
 - a. Parks and Facilities
Chair - Joel Braun – Jon Welles, Ed Hall, [Dale Sellner]
 - b. Administrative (E-Board)
Chair – Joel Braun – Kris Ridgewell, Karen Erickson, [Kathy Bergen]
 - c. Trails and Bikeways
Chair – Tom Beery - Barb Stark, Eric Viken, Andy Holak, [Judy Gibbs]
- Duluth Traverse Update
 - d. Recreation Programming – youth and adult
Chair - Kris Ridgewell – Susan Beasy Latto, Andy Holak, Erica Erickson, Tom Beery, [Pamela Page]
- Grants to be awarded - fund currently over \$19,484
- VI. Commissioner & Liaison Reports
- VII. New Business
 - a. Election of officers: Jon Welles (president), Eric Viken (vice-president), and Ed Hall (secretary)
- VIII. Old Business
 - a. ADA code enforcement
 - b. Dates and locations of 2013 meetings
 - c. Naming the park on top of the overflow tank on the Lakewalk
- IX. Division Manager's Report
 - a. Public meetings scheduled for Mini-Master Plans
 - b. Proposed 2013 capital projects
- X. Speakers/Public Comment
- XI. Adjournment

<p><u>E-Board Meetings</u> Fridays 12 noon @ City Hall</p> <p>January 25 February 22</p> <p>Remaining dates to be determined by new E-Board</p>
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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting of December 12, 2012



The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM in the Central Hillside Community Center

Members Present: Tom Beery, Joel Braun, Erica Erickson, Karen Erickson, Edwin Hall, Andy Holak, Barbara Stark, Eric Viken, Kristin Ridgewell, and Jon Welles

Member(s) Excused: Susan Beasy-Latto

The minutes for the meeting of November 14, 2012, were approved on motion of Eric Viken and Edwin Hall; supported unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

Greg Ingraham, HKGI Consultants, synopsized the current development of the Mini-Master Plans for Gary, Morgan Park and Memorial Community and Recreation Center. The information provided on the plans was informational only and no expeditious need for approval exists at this time.

Memorial Community Center

Discussion around the plans for Memorial included areas of the park to keep and what might, or should, be repaired. Two important components of discussion were trees and access to the park.

The following items were/are proposals from members of the commission:

- Closure of the existing play areas (the play equipment shall be used elsewhere) and creation of a "Tot Lot".
- Eliminating walkways through the park and incorporating walkways around the park. Walkways include benches and lighting. This would also increase green space within the park.
- Incorporation of a water feature into the park.
- Construction of a 3 sided building with enclosed restroom facilities.

Gary New Duluth Community Center

Gary New Duluth Community Center, located near Stowe school on 101 Ave West, was the second plan presented. It was agreed that the park is not utilized to the full potential it possesses. Several concepts were discussed with the school district and presented at public meetings. Below are the requests of the neighbors to the park:

- Pleasure skating
- Improvement of skate-park
- Addition of a picnic area
- Security

Additional suggestions were also presented:

- wet soil issues - correction of drainage
- 3 sided shelter
- rain garden
- community gardens
- skate park improvements
- basketball court
- lighting and security cameras

One of the biggest issues/concerns of the community is the lack of restroom facilities and access to water for gardens.

Morgan Park Community Center

The final plan presented was for Morgan Park. The existing park is in good shape. There is a new building and a view of the St. Louis River. The park is a hub for the community and offers many activities. Regionally the park is known for skating and hockey.

Staff and the community offered feedback and made recommendations that included:

- addition of picnic shelters and tables
- some type of vandalism deterrent/security
- disc golf course expansion to 9 holes
- skate and hockey improvements
- improvements to the pleasure rink
- installation of a community garden area

One final concern for the Morgan Park Community Center is restroom facilities when the building is closed.

COMMISSION COMMITTEES:

No Commission Committee reports.

COMMISSIONER AND LIAISON REPORTS:

The Outdoor Alliance is a compilation of loosely organized nature groups. Thomas Berry is involved with the Outdoor Alliance. Mr. Berry noted that the Alliance is structuring their plans with the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Kris Ridgewell addressed Safe Roads to Schools and safe walkable areas.

The Disabilities Commission, represented by Erica Erickson, receives complaints referencing ADA compliance. The Commission has been unable to secure an individual from the City of Duluth Government to address and/or enforce the aforementioned complaints. Complaints will now be forwarded to the State Attorney General's Office for action.

NEW BUSINESS:

Barbara Stark presented the Nominating Committee Report for 2013 Officers: Jon Welles as President; Eric Viken as Vice President and Edwin Hall as Secretary. Elections will be held in January with new officers taking office in February.

AmeriCorps will no longer be funded by the Federal Government. Kris Ridgewell addressed the \$150,000 in the Park Fund which was/is earmarked for AmeriCorps. The funding was to be used for youth activities. Where does the funding go or what should/needs to be done? As the Mayor dedicated these funds originally, Ms. Bergen is meeting with the Mayor to determine where the funds should go for continued youth activities.

A list was presented of 2013 meeting dates with discussion as to where they should be held. Through March the meeting will continue in the Central Hillside Community Center. The annual meeting in April will take place at the Law Enforcement Center on Arlington Avenue, if possible. May through August meetings will be held at various community centers. Ms. Bergen will check on availability of space.

OLD BUSINESS:

The park upon the overflow tank has yet to receive a name. Ms. Bergen advised the Mayor of our November stand on the proposed name and has not heard further.

DIVISION MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Current status at Chester Park: It is yet to be determined whether there should be a pond; no pond or an off-line pond. As this is a major issue, a meeting will be held before a plan for the park can be completed.
- No cross country ski trail grooming in Chester this winter.
- Awaiting response on various grants that have been requested.
- Support received from Duluth Community Gardens for the Stowe Plan.

ADJORNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM on motion of Edwin Hall, supported by Jon Welles and unanimously approved.