



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Wednesday – February 13, 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 January 9 minutes
- IV. Presentations
 - a. Off-Leash Dog Trails – Judy Gibbs (informational only)
- V. Commission Committees
 - a. Parks and Facilities
Chair - Joel Braun – Jon Welles, Ed Hall, [Dale Sellner]
 - b. Administrative (E-Board)
Chair – Jon Wells – Eric Viken, Ed Hall, [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 over \$19,484
- VI. Commissioner & Liaison Reports
- VII. New Business
 - a. Appointments for 2013 - 4 members of the Parks Commission that will serve on the Committee to review Parks Funds Neighborhood Grants.
 - b. Can/should the Commission put its parks programs/facilities "pull tab" funded program on the same application review schedule as the new Parks Fund grants, so as not to confuse applicants?
 - c. Upcoming Annual Meeting – determine agenda and theme. Need Planning Task Force for the meeting.
- VIII. Old Business
 - a. ADA code enforcement
- IX. Division Manager's Report
 - a. 2013 budget
 - b. Proposed 2013 capital projects
- X. Speakers/Public Comment
- XI. Adjournment

E-Board Meetings

Fridays
12 noon @ City Hall

February 22

Remaining dates
to be determined
by new E-Board



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting of January 9, 2013



The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM in the Central Hillside Community Center.

Members Present: Joel Braun, Karen Erickson, Edwin Hall, Andy Holak, Kris Ridgewell, Barb Stark, Eric Viken and Jon Welles

Members Excused: Tom Berry and Erica Erickson

Members Absent: Susan Beasy-Latto

Motion of approval for the December 12, 2012, meeting by Kris Ridgewell, support by Barb Stark; unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS:

James Gittemeier presented a concept plan/map for a proposed trail from Lowell School to the Lakewalk Trail. The purpose of the trail plan development is to 1) connect Lowell School to UMD and CSS campuses; 2) connect the college campuses and the Lakewalk for integration with the City.

The trail is to have a dual purpose of recreation and an alternate transportation route. This presentation was a suggestion on a route option and was informational only. A final route design is yet to be determined.

COMMISSION COMMITTEES:

Tom Berry, although not in attendance, submitted several questions on behalf of the Trails and Bikeways Committee. One issue questioned was enforcement of rules and regulations within City Parks and Trails. Ms. Bergen advised that from April to November persons will be employed to work within Parks and Trails on the basis of educating the public on proper uses. The employees will also be gathering statistics on Park and Trail users.

A second issue raised; the grooming of City ski trails. Apparently many comments are posted on Facebook. Ms. Bergen noted that according to City policy no comments are to be made on a Facebook page in response. However, due to lack of snow, grooming would be perfunctory at best. Chester Bowl has been posted "No Grooming" and persons are skiing around the skating oval.

Another discussion was initiated on an adopted ordinance relative to licensing of, and off-leash dogs in parks and on trails. The ordinance goes into effect when a group adopts a trail or park designated within the ordinance. Also to be noted are Councilor Hartman's concerns with the development of dog parks in the central and east areas of the City.

The EAW process for the Duluth Traverse is nearing completion.

No other Commission Committee reports.

NEW BUSINESS:

2013 Officers' Election: Jon Welles, President; Eric Viken, Vice-President; Edwin Hall, Secretary. Adoption made on motion of Kris Ridgewell; supported by Barb Stark; and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

The tabled topic of ADA compliance, raised previously by Erica Erickson, will be held until she is able to attend the meeting.

A list of dates and locations for 2013 Commission meetings was presented. One change, the date of the April meeting, will be made to accommodate school vacations and a location conflict.

Kris Ridgewell; supported by Barb Stark; moved to recommend the name "Sister Cities Park" for the park on top of the overflow tank on the Lakewalk; the recommendation was accepted unanimously.

COMMISSIONER AND LIASON REPORTS:

Eric Viken noted that he has had communications relative to the bridge re-route at Chester Bowl and the alignment of the trail. Ms. Bergen noted that this issue is still an ongoing discussion. It is intended to develop a City Plan for ski trails with public input.

DIVISION MANAGER'S REPORT:

The proposed Morgan Park plan has been given out to the public. The 2013 Capital Project list has not been completed as of yet. Presently no "Good News" is available, but it will be e-mailed when complete.

The future of "Warmer by the Lake" is under discussion. It is possible that next year an event will be planned to coordinate with the Winter Olympics.

ADJORNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM on motion of Kris Ridgewell; supported by Jon Welles; voted unanimously.