



# PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2014

Central Hillside Center  
12 E 4<sup>th</sup> St



## 1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Commissioner Hall called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

## 2. ROLL CALL

- A. PRESENT: Commissioners Albright, Braun, Crosby, Dodge, Hall, Schraepfer, Schmidt, Torch, Viken, Welles  
B. NOT PRESENT: Commissioner Holak

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Commissioner Welles motioned for approval of the August meeting minutes; second by Commissioner Torch; approved unanimously.  
B. Commissioner Torch motioned for approval of the September meeting minutes; second by Commissioner Braun; approved unanimously.

## 4. PRESENTATIONS

### A. 72<sup>ND</sup> AVENUE WEST –

- 1) Presentation made by Mr. Greg Stoewer, City of Duluth Project Engineer.
- 2) There are many roads that have been built over parks land throughout the City and so when those roads are rebuilt public access is required.
- 3) As an example, Mr. Stoewer cited West 1st Street, which went through the same process after the 2012 flood, when it was rebuilt using Federal funds
- 4) Both of the projects for consideration are due to the MNDoT reconstruction of Grand Avenue between 59th Avenue West and Gary New Duluth.
- 5) A main goal in design change is improved safety for people entering onto and off of Grand Ave.

### 6) QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- a) Commissioner Schmidt asked if there would be any impact to houses or businesses.
  - MNDoT would acquire the “Snoodles Ceramic” building which includes an apartment. The resident will have to relocate. However, there are MNDoT funds which support that.
- b) Councilor Larson asked how neighbors were notified.
  - The MIC has a process to identify individuals and other entities that would be impacted. All of them received mailers and invites to public meetings as part of the larger Grand Avenue reroute
- c) Commissioner Hall reiterated that this work is part of a larger Grand Avenue project that will include resurfacing of the street, addition of bike lanes and sidewalks, and more.
- d) Commissioner Dodge made the recommendation, due to some confusion among Commissioners about the plot of land under consideration, that future plot maps be overlaid on satellite maps such as Google Maps so documents are easier to review.
- e) Ms. Bergen noted the Parks Division is supportive of the project.



# PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2014, (cont'd)

Central Hillside Center  
12 E 4<sup>th</sup> St



## 7) RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

a) Commissioner Hall read the recommended resolution provided by Greg Stoewer:

**Whereas Warwick Drive was constructed across platted Block 13 of Hunter & Markells Grassy Point Addition, northwest of Grand Avenue, and;**

**Whereas Warwick Street is part of park land not formally dedicated for public access.**

**Therefore the Parks and Recreation Commission recommends granting a permanent right of way for roadway and utility purposes to the City of Duluth described as follows:**

**That part of Block 13 of Hunter & Markells Grassy Point Addition, according to the recorded plat thereof, including Lots 12 & 13 of said Block 13, and including those parts of Lots 22, 23, 24 & 25 of said Block 13 that lie northeasterly of the northwesterly extension of the southwest line of said Lot 12.**

Commissioner Albright made a motion to adopt the resolution, second by Commissioner Viken, passed unanimously.

## B. WARWICK STREET

1) Presentation by Mr. Greg Stoewer, City of Duluth Project Engineer

a) Similar to the 72nd Avenue West, this project is prompted by the Grand Avenue reconstruction.

b) The resulting project at Warwick Street will allow for improved signage and access at the base of Spirit Mountain.

2) QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

a) Ms. Bergen noted that the Parks Division is supportive of the project.

3) RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

a) Commissioner Hall read the recommended resolution provided by Greg Stoewer:

**Whereas Warwick Drive was constructed across platted Blocks 13 and 14 of Ironton First Division, northwest of Grand Avenue, and;**

**Whereas Warwick Street is part of park land not formally dedicated for public access.**

**Therefore the Parks and Recreation Commission recommends granting a permanent right of way for roadway and utility purposes to the City of Duluth of 20.00 foot width described as follows:**

**That part of Block 13 of Ironton First Division, according to the recorded plat thereof, beginning at the intersection of the centerline of 83 Avenue West and the northwest right-of-way of Grand Avenue (50.00 feet northwest of Grand Avenue centerline); thence northwest perpendicular to Grand Avenue centerline 20.00 feet; thence southwest along a line that is parallel with and 70.00 distant from**

Grand Avenue centerline a distance of 80.00 feet; thence southeast perpendicular to Grand Avenue centerline 20.00 feet to said northwest right-of-way; thence northeast along said northwest right-of-way 80.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

b) Commissioner Albright made a motion to adopt the resolution, second made by Viken, passed unanimously.

C. UPDATE ON CHESTER PARK MINI-MASTER PLAN

- 1) Ms. Bergen provided an update on the Mini-Master Plan by walking through the full history of the planning process and current identified uses as well as guiding principles and general identified goals for the plan.
- 2) Ms. Bergen noted that two elements of the current draft plans remain unresolved and City staff is seeking input.
  - a) The first issue is the conflict between pedestrians and XC skiers at Chester.
    - Previous plans included the development of a second trail to allow each user group their own trail. That option was opposed by a significant population of the park users so the City is considering three options.
      - (i) No changes to current trails.
      - (ii) Approve creation of a new pedestrian trail as in current plan
      - (iii) Multifaceted approach to improving trail for shared use. (Option 3 is supported by the City.)
    - If option 3 is implemented and, after a trial period, it is deemed infeasible, than the City will select among options for reconciliation.
    - Ms. Bergen noted that the cross country ski club is supportive of option three.
  - b) The second unresolved issue is the addition of lighting and snowmaking on sections of XC ski trails.
    - Pros, as identified by City staff and users, are it is centrally located, there is a staging area, and there are parking areas.
    - Cons, as identified by City staff and users, are the majority of the terrain is advanced and some residents consider it overdevelopment.
    - Staff recommendation is to retain lighting and snowmaking within the plan but City staff will work to identify alternative options for lighting and snowmaking in other areas of the City. If lighting and snowmaking is brought forward for Chester, the Parks Commission would consider the issue with a vote to approve or deny.

3) QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- a) Commissioner Torch noted that within the XC master plan it recommended a standard 4 meter width. He asked if the shared use trail would be 4 meters for skiing, 4 meters total.
  - City staff Jim Filby Williams stated that the neighbors and the cross country ski groups have walked the trails and worked to build consensus of where it could be wider and where it could be closer to 4 meters. No set width has been set.

- b) Commissioner Albright asked why grooming would be for skate skiing, given that skate skiing requires a wider path than classical.
- Mr. Filby Williams responded that there was common recognition that classic, skate, and hiking on a single trail would not be feasible and that the cross country ski club identified classic skiing made the most sense for dropping.
  - Luke Sydow, consultant, noted that Chester includes significant hills which make classic skiing uphill unlikely within a traditional tracked trail.
- c) Commissioner Albright asked if there is a means to delineate the trail divisions and directions.
- It will be signed for multiuse and signs will indicate direction of travel and note that skiers have right of way.
- d) Commissioner Hall asked if the trails would permanently be structured for skiers to travel in one direction and walkers the other, or if direction would ever switch within a season or season to season.
- Mr. Sydow stated the direction of the trails would not change for skiers.
- e) Commissioner Schmidt noted he saw a strong desire among neighbors and users to work together to identify solutions.
- f) Commissioner Viken asked about summer use of the trail - if it would become two-way, if any is unsustainable in the summer.
- Ms. Judy Gibbs, staff for the City, responded that in the summer signs would be taken down.
- g) Commissioner Torch asked about the timeline for timeline for stage one of the multifaceted trail.
- Mr. Filby Williams noted that there is not a timeline in place. Some work might be completed this fall but full implementation would not happen until the 2015-2016 winter season.
- h) Commissioner Hall asked what would be possible this year.
- Ms. Gibbs suggested that if the Parks Commission approves the master plan that some things, such as signage and limited improvements, could still be done this year, but reiterated complete implementation wouldn't be possible until next winter.
  - Mr. Sydow noted that there is not significant vegetation that would require work.
- i) Commissioner Albright asked how City staff would determine if stage one of option 3 was a success.
- Mr. Filby Williams suggested that the City might convene a stakeholder discussion after stage one is rolled out to gather input on the success of the plan.
  - Ms. Gibbs recommended setting up "counts" this winter to generate data on use of the trails.
  - Commissioner Torch shared concerns about partial completion of the trail and asked about budgeting for the completion of the project.

- Mr. Filby Williams stated that the trail project would be the top priority for the City within Chester.
- j) Commissioner Viken noted that signage would need to happen soon if they want to get new posts in the ground before freezing.
- k) Commissioner Viken asked if the alternate locations for lighted trails and snowmaking would be limited to just central portions of the City.
  - Ms. Bergen stated that the City would consider options throughout the City.
  - Mr. Filby Williams noted that the current lighted trail is limited to Lester and so options outside of the eastern/central half of the City would be explored.
- l) Ann Holtz, a citizen of Duluth, thanked Commissioners and staff for the work and progress that has taken place. She also asked the City to request skiers be responsible for themselves when passing so the responsibility isn't solely on walkers to keep trails safe. She suggested there are certain times of the day and the week that particular user groups tend to use the trails more.
- m) Karl Hodil, a citizen of Duluth, suggested cutting out the classical skiing would improve the use and safety of the trail. He suggested walkers are more likely from the neighborhood and skiers are more likely to be less familiar with the trail, therefore, they go against expectations. He suggested strong signage and communication with skiers. He also asked there be a central location for concerns about trail usage to prevent all staff and Commissioners from having to be emailed with concerns.
  - Ms. Bergen noted there is a means to set up a trail concerns mechanism through the City website.
- n) Steve Holtz, a citizen of Duluth, requested the trial period be at least two and ideally three seasons to determine the success of a multifaceted trail.
- o) Dave Schaffer, director of the Chester Bowl Improvement Club, asked if the walking trails would be groomed if the City determines to eliminate skiing.
  - Mr. Filby Williams said it hasn't been determined and it would involve public feedback opportunities and Commission review.
  - Ms. Gibbs noted the City does not currently groom hiking trails.
- p) Dan Proctor, a citizen of Duluth, noted the compromises have significantly improved the project and he supports the passage of the plan as is.

## 5. COMMISSION COMMITTEES

- A. Parks and Facilities – meeting date: TBA  
Chair - Joel Braun – Jon Welles, Ed Hall, Michael Schraepfer, [Dale Sellner]

No update.

- B. Administrative (E-Board) – meeting date: TBA  
Chair – Ed Hall – Eric Viken, Tom Albright, [Kathy Bergen]

No update.

- C. Trails and Bikeways – meeting date: TBA |  
Chair – Tom Albright - Eric Viken, Andy Holak, [Judy Gibbs], [Art Johnston]

End of next week will be a ribbon cutting for the Cross City Trail through Lincoln Park. City staff will be painting the blue line shortly after.

- D. Recreation Programming (youth and adult) – meeting date: TBA |  
Chair - Jon Welles – Andy Holak, Erik Torch [Pamela Page]

No update.

## 6. COMMISSIONER & LIAISON REPORTS

None given. |

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### A. LANDSCAPING WITHIN CHESTER BOWL

- 1) Mr. Filby Williams stated Sprint is paying for 38 native shrubs and 44 native trees. Vegetation will be added with the intention of masking the fence and tower as much as possible.

### B. GARY NEW DULUTH

- 1) Commissioner Hall noted the Gary New Duluth Mini-Master Plan was recently approved by the Parks Commission.  
a) Ms. Bergen shared the CN Railroad donated \$100,000 to the park and that the Development Alliance for the GND Park has been aggressively seeking institutional support for redevelopment of the park.

### C. DULUTH TENNIS ALLIANCE

- 1) Michael Chelseth presented on behalf of the Duluth Tennis Alliance to share concerns about maintaining existing tennis courts and the lack of tennis courts in eastern Duluth. 300 signatures have been collected asking to dedicate funding for maintenance and development of tennis courts. Mr. Chelseth noted Longview was recently resurfaced, in part, through funding from membership in Longview's "Friends of Tennis" which charges membership in exchange for priority when reserving courts.  
a) Commissioner Hall noted master plans don't typically include funding or specific timelines for implementation.  
b) Ms. Bergen shared Parks received a \$38,000 grant from Minnesota Power to resurface Fond du Lac's tennis courts. She also noted Wade Wheeler's Mini-Master Plan will be coming up soon and those courts will be considered.

## 8. DIVISION MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Mr. Filby Williams shared the administration is busy developing a set of project options for the St. Louis River Corridor. The project options will likely be available for review in late October or early November.  
B. Commissioner Hall asked about the golf courses.

- 1) Mr. Filby Williams stated the interviews of groups that submitted proposals for managing the golf course will be next week. The mayor is no longer interested in selling all 27 holes but the possibility is still there to sell land development of 9 or 18 holes for housing.
- C. Ms. Bergen noted the Parks Fund Grants are to be presented to the Commission during the November 5th meeting.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Torch made motion to adjourn, Commissioner Albright second, unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held 5 pm, Wednesday, November 5, at Duluth Heights Community Recreation Center (33 West Mulberry St).

**MOTION(S)**

72<sup>ND</sup> AVENUE WEST - Commissioner Hall read the recommended resolution. Commissioner Albright made a motion to adopt the resolution, second by Commissioner Viken, passed unanimously.

WARWICK STREET - Commissioner Hall read the recommended resolution. Commissioner Albright made a motion to adopt the resolution, second made by Viken, passed unanimously.



## City of Duluth

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES

Engineering Division

411 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Room 211 • Duluth MN 55802

(218) 730-5200 Fax: (218) 730-5907

October 1, 2014

To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Greg Stoewer, City of Duluth Project Engineer  
Subject: 72 Avenue West Right of Way at Grand Avenue/Zoo Entrance

The attachment is an exhibit for a proposed 72 Avenue West to be dedicated for public access. The existing 72 Avenue West is constructed across platted lots that are park land.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is re-constructing the 72 Avenue West intersection and repaving the surface of Grand Avenue in 2015. The reconstruction of the intersection includes installing traffic signals. Requirement for the construction is that the work be done on public access right of way. This process is similar to the right of way that had to be acquired from Parks and Recreation for the West 1<sup>st</sup> Street funding a two years ago.

A suggested resolution for the Commission to consider follows:

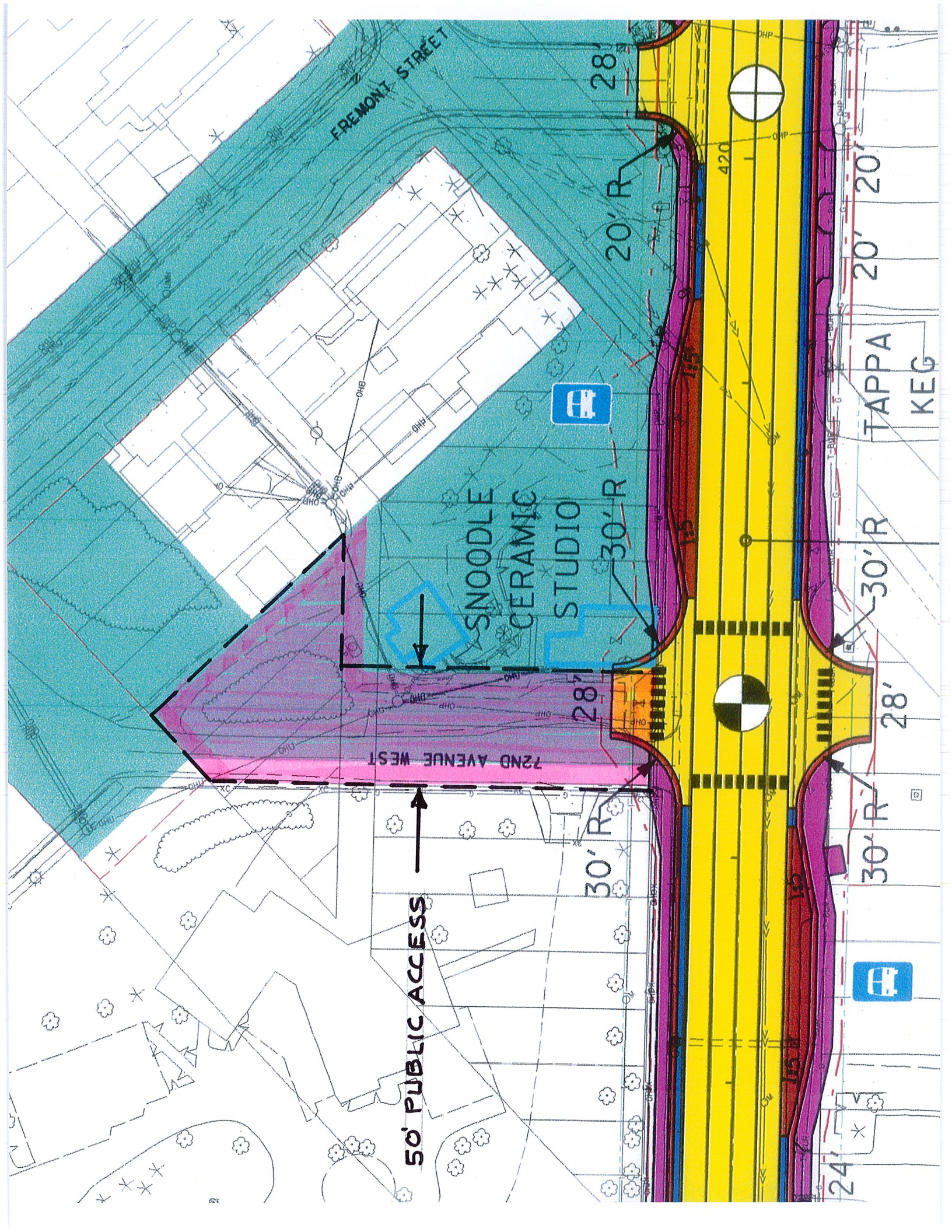
Whereas Warwick Drive was constructed across platted Block 13 of Hunter & Markells Grassy Point Addition, northwest of Grand Avenue, and;

Whereas Warwick Street is part of park land not formally dedicated for public access.

Therefor the Parks and Recreation Commission recommends granting a permanent right of way for roadway and utility purposes to the City of Duluth described as follows:

That part of Block 13 of Hunter & Markells Grassy Point Addition, according to the recorded plat thereof, including Lots 12 & 13 of said Block 13, and including those parts of Lots 22, 23, 24 & 25 of said Block 13 that lie northeasterly of the northwesterly extension of the southwest line of said Lot 12.





FREMONT STREET

SNOODLE CERAMIC STUDIO

72ND AVENUE WEST

50' PUBLIC ACCESS

28'

20' R

30' R

30' R

420

20' 20'

TAPPA  
KEG

30' R

28'

30' R

24'



HUNTER & MARKELLS GRASSY POINT ADD.

Fremont St.

32	M. Wagner.	1
31		2
30	Peter Kelly.	3
29	G. Willis Peters.	4
28	Grace Maxwell.	5
27		6
26		7
25	14 Estate of Willis J. Peters, deceased.	8
24		9
23		10
22	Theodore Johnson.	11
21	Francisca Amatuzio.	12
20	Andrea Pietracatille.	13
19	Marion Mastrian.	14
18	William Newman.	15
17		16

W. Ave. 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

29		1
28		2
27		3
26		4
	Catharine Hunter, and 1/2 25 Ella Markell, and 1/2 Gerude Abbott. - 16	5
	Nellie B. Markell, Ruth Markell, 24 Clinton Markell, Porter B. Markell.	6
23	Meggie Thatcher.	7
22		8
21		9
	Peter Schroeder.	10
	Warren Clarkson, and 1/2 Wysses S. G. Sharp - 25	11
	Frank Gottwald.	12
	Ethel Glading Bibb.	13
	Neil Mohaire Bank.	14
	S. M. Knox.	15
	Lillian Elizabeth Hill, and 1/2 Ernest Alfred Hill, and 1/2 John Geddes.	16
	G. Willis Peters.	17
20		18
		19
		20

71<sup>st</sup> Ave. W.

Natchez St.

Grand Ave.

P A R K.

NOR. PAC. RY.

emination Plot showing the real estate necessary to be acquired for Public Park purposes. The property to be taken being all of the east one half of Block 14, and all of lots 10. to 25. Block 13. in Hunter & Markells Grassy Point Addition. as shown colored in red on the above plat. The names of the owners of the property to be taken are shown on the plat according to



## City of Duluth

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES

Engineering Division

411 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Room 211 • Duluth MN 55802

(218) 730-5200 Fax: (218) 730-5907

October 2, 2014

To: Parks and Recreation Commission  
From: Greg Stoewer, City of Duluth Project Engineer  
Subject: Warwick Street Right of Way at Grand Avenue/Spirit Mountain

The attachment is an exhibit for a proposed 20 foot strip of Warwick Street (next to Grand Avenue) to be dedicated for public access. Warwick Street was constructed by the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area Authority.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is re-constructing the Warwick Street intersection in 2015 and repaving the surface of Grand Avenue in 2016. The reconstruction of the intersection includes installing traffic signals. Requirement for the construction is that the work be done on public access right of way. This process is similar to the right of way that had to be acquired from Parks and Recreation for the West 1<sup>st</sup> Street funding two years ago.

A suggested resolution for the Commission to consider follows:

Whereas Warwick Drive was constructed across platted Blocks 13 and 14 of Ironton First Division, northwest of Grand Avenue, and;

Whereas Warwick Street is part of park land not formally dedicated for public access.

Therefore the Parks and Recreation Commission recommends granting a permanent right of way for roadway and utility purposes to the City of Duluth of 20.00 foot width described as follows:

That part of Block 13 of Ironton First Division, according to the recorded plat thereof, beginning at the intersection of the centerline of 83 Avenue West and the northwest right-of-way of Grand Avenue (50.00 feet northwest of Grand Avenue centerline); thence northwest perpendicular to Grand Avenue centerline 20.00 feet; thence southwest along a line that is parallel with and 70.00 distant from Grand Avenue centerline a distance of 80.00 feet; thence southeast perpendicular to Grand Avenue centerline 20.00 feet to said northwest right-of-way; thence northeast along said northwest right-of-way 80.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

2013 INPL PC 363+65.77  
2013 INPL POT 361+21.46



20' PUBLIC ACCESS →

WARWICK STREET

36

30' R

30' R

360

365

30' R

30' R

36

WARWICK STREET

