



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting of November 14, 2012



The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order in the Central Hillside Community Center at 5:10 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Susan Beasy-Latto

Edwin Hall motioned to approve the October 10, 2012, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Kris Ridgewell and unanimously supported.

PRESENTATIONS:

Washington Square Mini Master Plan

Luke Sydow presented the current Washington Square Mini Master plan. The plan was presented with three tennis court options; no tennis court, one tennis court or two tennis courts. Input from two neighbors adjacent to the potential court location (not present), one neighbor (present), the East Alumni representative (present) and the commission members allowed an acceptable compromise to be reached. Additional trees planted, court fence to be higher on the ends and lower on the sides, a high quality court to help ensure ease of sustainability, no night lighting and a caveat for potential development of additional court(s) based upon future need, cost and neighborhood support.

Tom Beery motioned to accept plan B (one tennis court) with the additions discussed and listed above. The motion was seconded by Jon Welles. The motion was passed with a vote of nine yeas and 1 nay from Joel Braun.

2012 Fall Neighborhood Parks Fund Grant

Kathy Bergen presented the recommended award recipients for the 2012 Fall Neighborhood Parks Fund Grants. Nine requests were submitted and 6 recommendations were made. Jon Welles, supported by Tom Berry moved to approve the 2012 Fall Neighborhood Parks Fund grant applications as approved by the Grant Approval Committee. A caveat recommending the Parks Department attempt to supply Neighbors of Lower Chester Park with concession equipment and mats from the closed facilities was included in the motion. The vote was unanimous.

2012 Fall Neighborhood Parks Fund Grant Applications

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Program Name</u>	<u>Recommended Amount</u>
Cyclists of Gitchee Gummee Shores	Mountain Bike Trail System Sustainability Upgrades	\$5,000
Gary-Morgan Park Hockey Association	Player Boxes Rebuild & Rink Repair	\$5,000
Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, Inc.	Interpretive Signage for Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve	\$5,000
Park Point Community Club	LaFayette Summer Youth Program	\$3,200
Woodland Amateur Hockey Association	Public Skating Rink Resurface	\$5,000
YMCA of Duluth	Woodland Community Center Garden and Kitchen	\$3,076
TOTALS		\$26,276

Information on naming the park above the overflow tank was also presented by Kathy Bergen. A task force has been created to draft a naming policy. At this time the policy has not been completed. The Mayor opened the floor to the general public for name suggestions. 29 responses were received and reviewed. The top three choices were submitted to the Mayor. As the park design is in keeping with the Sister City theme the Mayor's choice was "Sister Cities Promenade". The first choice was not accepted by the Commission. Motion was made by Andy Holak, supported by Kris Ridgewell and unanimously voted by the Commission, to take suggestions back to the Mayor.

COMMISSION COMMITTEES:

Joel Braun appointed the nominating committee to consist of Edwin Hall, Susan Beasy-Latto and Eric Viken. New Officers are elected in January and take office in February.

Kris Ridgewell will call a meeting to begin the process of awarding grants from the pull-tab proceeds the City receives.

No other Commission Committee reports.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tom Beery noted that UMD has shown interest in acquiring the Secondary Technical School on the Central High School site. They are aware of the Parks Department's desire to obtain and maintain a trail through the property.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

DIVISION MANAGER'S REPORT:

Kathy Bergen advised that the City is working on acquiring the property adjoining Wheeler Field. The property includes a closed service station and a vacant home. Preference is completion of the acquisition before work commences on the Wheeler Master Plan.

ADJORNMENT:

The November 14, 2012, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:05 per motion of Kris Ridgewell, seconded by Susan Beasy-Latto and unanimously supported.