



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2018

City Hall – Council Chambers
411 W 1st St



I. Call Meeting to Order

President Torch called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

II. Roll Call

Present: Erik Torch, John Schmidt, Dean Vogtman, Michael Schraepfer, Amanda Crosby, Dudley Edmondson, Dennis Isernhagen, Britt Rohrbaugh, Tiersa Wodash, Kristin Bergerson, Em Westerlund (City Council Liaison)

Not present: Tjaard Breeuwer, David Kirby (ISD 709 School Board Liaison), Frank Jewell (St. Louis County Board Liaison)

III. Approval of January 10 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Schmidt motioned for approval of the January 10, 2018 meeting minutes; second by Commissioner Schraepfer. Unanimously approved.

IV. Presentations

- A. Lower Spirit Water Access Concept Plan – Lisa Luokkala, Project Coordinator, City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Division (action requested)

Luokkala: Shared that after the previous Commission meeting a two-week public comment period was conducted, at which time the plan was slightly revised to reflect feedback received. Shared the themes present in the 18 public comments, noting the number of responses they received supporting the plan and site restoration. Identified the number of respondents who did not support the plan. Confirmed that regardless of whether individuals supported the plan, strong emphasis on site restoration was relevant. Responded to requests for additional information from previous Commission meetings:

- **Additional detail in regards to the roadway:** The roadway that would continue below the BN tracks, which would be in the park boundaries, would have a curb and gutter that would be directly fed into the storm water rain garden element for treatment and cooling.
- **Provide detail on the maintenance budget:** Noted the summary packet provided to the Commissioners and stated that working with Parks Maintenance Supervisor Dale Sellner, a rough figure of \$9,000 annually in maintenance costs was determined. Stated that because they hope to include a 9.5-acre pollinator restoration site, an additional three-year intensive management plan at an additional cost of \$12,350 would be required.

Luokkala: Shared that the Parks and Recreation Division has recently received word from the Northland Paddlers Alliance that they wish to adopt-a-spot, with this location being their area of focus. Stated that this helps lower the ongoing maintenance costs for Parks. Walked Commissioners through the site plan's changes since the last meeting:

- Recommend changing name to "Spirit Landing" to more clearly identify the location



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- Parking shifted north of the rail with an overflow parking area (10 single car, 2 trailer)
- Accessible parking to remain adjacent to the pathway leading to the accessible launch
- Parking is part of the circle island (7 spaces); adjacent to the rain garden element

Luukkala: Indicated that they did not reduce parking any further as they felt it would affect access, as many folks with accessibility issues do not necessarily hold a handicap parking pass. Stated that they do not want to create additional problems with folks creating informal parking lots. Noted other changes included the delineated natural surface and paved surface paths indicated in the site map. Stated that the paved path will run along the new roadway through the parking area. Highlighted the accessible pathway to the accessible launch and its importance to this site plan. Described the evolution of the site plan and indicated that it is modest in comparison to the original plan, with only two acres of property being developed. Stressed the level of accessibility this location would provide to citizens and how the location is naturally protected from wind and other factors. Requested feedback or questions from Commissioners.

Wodash: Requested more information about what amenities are available at adjacent launch sites, specifically what is being discussed for Indian Point Marina and Munger Landing.

Luukkala: Stated that Indian Point Campground does not have a completed Mini-Master Plan and currently has a boat dock but no ADA accessible launch into the estuary. Indicated that with current staffing constraints, it is not at the top of the project list, with hopes for a 2019-2020 planning process. Explained that Grassy Point is surrounded by active industry and is not a popular site because of its location to other recreational activities within the corridor. Noted the site is currently under a restoration plan led by the DNR, which will change the actual physical land masses. Stated that by removing woody pulp debris and moving fill from Kingsbury Bay next to Indian Point and then to Grassy Point, may require two to three years before a recreational overlay can be applied to the existing land masses. Explained that Munger Landing is already functioning at a high capacity and there may be a possibility to retrofit a fishing pier with an ADA launch device, during the WWFT planning process. Stated that no funds are allocated for improvements to these sites at this time. At this time. Confirmed that Spirit Marina is a private entity, therefore a public/private partnership would have to be pursued.

Wodash: Questioned what the timeline would be for construction of the Spirit launch.

Luukkala: Confirmed roadwork would happen in 2018 and the building of the launch in 201-2020 as funding is secured.

Schmidt: Questioned if naming would be included in the Mini-Master Plan.

Luukkala: Confirmed a resolution would be required for Council approval of the plan, and similar to Quarry Park, a name would be included as part of the site plan and resolution.

Edmondson: Questioned if habitat restoration could be separate from the development plans for the site.



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Luukkala: Stated that the City is currently deciding whether to purchase the property at this time.

Edmondson: Questioned if there was separate funding for development and infrastructure.

Luukkala: Stated that recreation enhancements and restoration will likely come from different funds.

Vogtman: Explained that former Mayor Don Ness first proposed the St. Louis River Corridor concept which proposed development of this nature, noting the importance of accessibility. Expressed support of the plan and getting folks on the river, while attracting positive development and strengthening revitalization of the area.

Isernhagen: Requested Ms. Luukkala revisit the financing portion and explain where funds will come from.

Luukkala: Referred to visual and discussed the probable costs of construction. Stated that a portion of the project is funded through ½ and ½ tourism tax from bonding dollars, with the roadway being funded separately.

Jim Filby Williams: Explained that the project is a road, trail, and water access project, with the following contributors:

- St. Louis County contributing - \$900,000,
- DNR State Park Road Access Account - \$450,000 (only for building road to water access)
- MN DOT - \$240,000
- City utility fund - \$120,000 (for the signaled intersection)
- Developer - \$500,000 (for the buried sewer and water infrastructure)
- ½ and ½ Tourism tax - \$750,000

Jim Filby Williams: Indicated they are confident in their ability to secure the remaining \$150,000 in funding promptly.

Isernhagen: Stated that Indian Point was of special interest to him as it could easily accommodate an ADA landing and already has campsites. Expressed support of access improvements; however, indicated he has a hard time with the project's cost and the City's current financial situation.

Jim Filby Williams: Noted the Parks Commission previously approved the National Water Trail Plan which identified this area, around the tourism hub, as a place where there should be unusually close water access, with a concentration on beginner paddling. Explained that protected bays are suitable for beginners and although they thoroughly examined other possibilities, this location is the most favorable and appropriate for modest water development.

Westerlund: Expressed excited about the plan as it relates to accessibility, noting the lack of other facilities and water access locations that accomplish this. Referenced the City's ADA walkability plan and applauded this plan's investment in ADA compliance. Stated that often there are not funds available to go back and retrofit items into a plan; therefore, going through the process up front is responsible and proactive. Noted the plan's decrease in regards to development and strong focus



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on ecological restoration. Explained that the public process has been very responsive and not everyone will get one hundred percent of what they want. Applauded the City's commitment to decreasing the impact of design. Expressed excitement regarding the ecological restoration of this area and thanked staff for their hard work and the public for participating in the input process.

Isernhagen: Requested confirmation on which special interest group hoped to adopt the location.

Luukkala: Confirmed the Northland Paddlers Alliance as the group.

Schmidt: Indicated that in response to Councilor Westerlund's comments, downsizing of the plan is commendable as is the design and restoration work. Shared that the environmental groups urge for more protection of this area. Questioned what the future plans for upstream ADA accessibility upstream and whether this would be considered the premier ADA hub.

Luukkala: Confirmed there are additional sites earmarked for ADA upgrades as part of the larger Western Waterfront Park and Trail Mini-Master Plan. Highlighted a few of these proposed upgrades:

- Retrofit Boy Scout Landing Pier (existing DNR maintained boat launch)
- CDF site (once US Steel clean up happens at Slag Point)
- Munger Landing retrofit
- Perch Lake Landing (DNR led)

Eric Larson (public): Thanked City staff for their work and stated his role as a professional in adaptive recreation and sports with Courage Kenney Disability Institute. Stated that currently, they have to actively pursue access as it relates to recreation, and this project will provide a solid opportunity. Indicated an accessible launch is a wonderful opportunity for the community and expressed full support of the project.

Mary Briski (public): Reads statement from Will Munger:

"My name is Will Munger, I live at (intentionally left blank for privacy), and am an owner of a family business that has been operating in West Duluth, on the same corner as 75th and Grand Avenue, since 1942. We have been operating a tourism business since 1955. I am proud to stand here today defending the work of my father, the late State Representative Willard Munger, who worked with hundreds of others for his entire forty-year career as a legislator to clean up, restore, and preserve the natural areas of the St. Louis River. It was my father's passion to protect our shorelines everywhere from development. Yes, he was a business person who depended upon tourism. In addition, he was a legislator who was a champion for the environment. He believed that both could coexist, but not without some sacrifice. He understood how important it was to preserve our natural shoreline with trails for all to enjoy. He also understood important it was to have adequate and affordable public access to the river. He felt strongly that you don't develop roads and parking lots in the very areas that people are attracted to when left in their natural state. This is why I am here to express concerns about the proposed plans to build a road and parking area at the site known at Tallus Island, at the foot of the Spirit Mountain Ski Area. We all know that this proposed kayak launch and park is not being proposed because of supposed public need. We all know that this proposed kayak launch was proposed by the developers so that they can get a tax payer funded road into their development. You have



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made a thankful sacrifice by accepting the responsibility to serve on the parks board. I assume that you too accept your responsibility because you have a deep appreciation for our community's parks and natural areas. With that in mind, I hope you will cast a vote on this that has the best interests of our natural areas first and foremost, and not the best interest of a developer."

Letitia Siers (public): Reads statement from Richard Hainey:

"Early in my teaching career, I read about a teacher who gave her elementary school students an assignment to share their thoughts on why it is important for us to eat a healthy diet, to be physically active, and to exercise. One student wrote the simple, yet profound statements, I quote, 'we should take very good care of our bodies for where would we be without them'. I use this often in my physical health classes. I took the liberty to reword it from a biology and environmental education class, 'we should take very good care of our earth for where would we be without it'. Simple words simply said, yet wise. How does this apply to the issue at hand? The planned proposal for a developed park with car parking and drive to launch for kayaks and canoes will impact significantly a quiet area along the St. Louis Estuary, a river sanctuary for birds, other animals, plants, and yes humans. It is a favored area for bird watchers. Indeed, Tallus Island protected bay is the only said area remaining along the Minnesota side of the river, from the aerial lift bridge to Boy Scout Landing. In the simple words of a child, where would we be without it, we would have not one quiet place for miles along the estuary. We would be developing for humans first, and after perhaps realize the impact of our efforts on the rest of the living world. The Riverside Small Area Plan, the St. Louis River Corridor vision, the Western Waterfront Trail Plan all list as first priorities, protection and restoration. The proposed plan would have a significant impact on this quiet area and there are other viable options for developed launch sites nearby. To the northeast is Indian Point Campground, already developed with the potential to become a headquarters for the St. Louis River Alliance, that's new mission is management of the National Water Trail. The Lower Spirit Mountain Site could still be walk-in site and the development could still continue with road access. This would help us take good care of our earth."

Alaina Pilate (public): Stated she is representing Northland Paddlers Alliance, which aims to expand access for human powered water crafts and connect Duluthians while supporting restoration of fresh water resources. Indicated that she is speaking from the perspective of past, present, and future. Explained their group has been involved since 2015 when they wrote in support of the National Water Trail Master Plan and again in 2016 in support of the WWFT plan. Stated that at this time they conducted a survey and received 38 responses, over half of which stated they would use the St. Louis River Estuary if it provided more paddling access. Discussed Northland Paddlers Alliance involvement with local youth serving agencies and community members over the past summer and noted the challenges in finding locations for inexperienced paddlers as it relates to weather, location, and launch accessibility. Expressed the Northland Paddlers Alliance's support of the plan and willingness to adopt the site.

Josh Sorvik (public): Indicated that he grew up in the area and after being paralyzed nine years ago found it challenging to continue to participate in the outdoor activities that he enjoys. Expressed support of an ADA accessible location to launch a boat or non-motorized craft. Explained that all the



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accessibility challenges discussed in the plan from parking to congestion or grade issues are true. Described challenges he currently experiences when accessing the water:

- Parking issues – grade terrible or no accessible parking
- Congestion – boat trailers don't see someone in wheelchair or someone trying to get into kayak
- Waves from motor boats

Alison Clarke (public): Thanked Commissioners and citizens who participated in the planning process. Indicated that as part of the Friends of Western Duluth Parks and Trails group, she recently participated with the City in design, construction, and maintenance of trails in Western Duluth. Described the strong citizen preference for preservation of the micro estuary at the Tallus Island site. Expressed appreciation for a public process, and indicated their group understands the need and desire for public access to the river; however, respect of the habitat should be recognized and addressed as other locations could better satisfy access needs. Encouraged Commissioners and the City to explore and develop better plans within the entire possibility of the St. Louis River Estuary.

Scott Neustel (public): Indicated that he is the owner of the Ski Hut, a local retailer of canoes and kayaks for over 30 years. Described his participation in local events and Northland Paddlers Alliance. Expressed excitement for the St. Louis River designation and indicated that studies have shown 262,000 potential paddlers will visit the estuary. Noted the importance of safe non-motorized access to the river. Indicated that this site plan would accomplish access, restoration and connectivity to Spirit Mountain. Displayed photographs that show the current state of the site, overgrown with invasive Buckthorn, lacking mature trees, and damage from illegal ATV use. Stated that without paddle access, securing funding for restoration of the site may be difficult.

Rich Staffon (public): Stated he is the President of the Duluth Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. Explained they oppose the plan because it is being proposed in the wrong location, despite its positive focus on accessibility. Indicated their group participated in the stakeholder meetings and was largely against developing major access at this location. Expressed appreciation for the modifications made to the site plan, but stated they still believe it is not the solution. Stated they are in support of recreation and tourism, however this location is a unique and special place that should be protected for the future.

Dave Zentner (public): Stated he is a member of the Izaak Walton league and would like to emphasize their involvement in recreation and getting youth outdoors. Indicated they agree with the concept of ADA access; however, it is paramount they take care of the area and urban wilderness. Stated they believe the footprint is larger than it needs to be and accommodations could be made at different sites. Agreed with Mr. Neustel in the need for restoration of the area.

Connie Moeller (public): Thanked Commissioners and stated she lives by Stryker Bay. Indicated she believes the City has been diligent in giving ample opportunity for citizens to participate and bring their voices to the table in regard to the development. Indicated that the problem with the current plan is it does not represent the voice of the citizens who gave their time and efforts. Explained the plan is not a product of the public process, as the number one priority was to preserve and protect the natural areas along the Western Waterfront Trail. Noted that access has always been supported, but preservation of Tallus Island was overwhelmingly emphasized in the public process and should



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remain so.

Mike Casey (public): Urged Commissioners not to support a plan that is not truly a parks plan rather a development plan. Stated that it does not represent what the citizens truly want and is concerning to those who have represented preservation of the site. Explained the City has misrepresented how badly the area needs to be left alone in order to heal. Indicated they want the existing launches in the area to be maintained. Referred to the road development and its proximity to other trails and recreation areas, which have possibilities for access or launch enhancements. Explained that the Munger Landing could have an accessible launch. Expressed disapproval of additional development to the site and micro estuary.

Torch: Requested feedback from Mr. Roche.

Roche: Expressed heartfelt appreciation for those that put time into the public process. Stated that it is a heavy responsibility on the Parks Commission in balancing how to provide reasonable access while preserving nature. Indicated that staff worked incredibly hard to preserve the 32 acres with minimal development on the 2 acres. Described the importance of preserving nature while providing universal access.

Vogtman: Referenced discussion on Munger Landing and indicated that on fishing opener there is no spots for folks to launch, and he cannot imagine someone with accessibility issues trying to launch their canoe at this time.

Rohrbaugh: Stated that while she is in support of maintaining wild spaces, universal access is of utmost importance.

Wodash: Clarified in response to Mr. Roche's comments that those opposed to this plan are not opposed to access, rather the level of development.

Isernhagen: Expressed support of the concept and emphasized the quality of work Ms. Luokkala provided in the plan. Indicated that the location is hard for him as other sites could potentially be developed.

Torch: Indicated that universal access is critical to enjoying outdoor spaces and this plan goes a long way in providing universal design. Expressed appreciation for the work and support of the plan.

MOTION/Second: Vogtman/Edmondson to approve the Lower Spirit Mountain Site plan. Vote: 4/6. Motion fails.

- B. Lower Chester Mini-Master Plan – Jim Shoberg, Project Coordinator, City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Division (action requested)

Shoberg: Stated that following the January meeting, they had a two-week public comment period and supplemental survey. Highlighted the following results:

- 24 write in comments received

- 65% in favor of the plan as shown; 35% not in favor
- Top 5 themes: organized hockey, pleasure skating, year-round use by multiple groups, community gardening, playground
- Survey split between local zip codes (55805/55812) and all other zip codes
 - What do you value more if you cannot have both at this location; pleasure skating area in the winter or a green open space in the summer – 90.4% from local zip codes preferred pleasure skating in the winter, 95.5% from all other zip codes preferred pleasure skating
 - What is your preferred time for open skating during the week – local zip codes favored 4:30-8pm, all other zip codes favored 4:30-8pm
 - What is your preferred time for open skating on weekend – 12-2:30pm preferred by local zip codes, all other zip codes favored 12-2:30pm

Shoberg: Described answers to questions from Commissioners at previous meetings:

- **Can box lacrosse hours of operation and impacts to parking be described:** From late September to early November, the Duluth Box Lacrosse League will utilize concrete and grass hockey rinks for youth and high school box lacrosse. The group would not hold practices at Lower Chester and only use for site games on Sundays from 11am-8pm. Parking is allowed on both sides of the street on Sundays from 4-8pm resulting in reduced impact on parking in the neighborhood. City will work on better long-term parking solution.
- **Can hours of hockey be described in more detail:** Organized, programmatic hockey will run from 5-8pm weeknights from mid-November to February. In accordance with the DAHA agreement, the hockey group must provide 25 hours of supervised rink time per week for open skate, including one day on the weekend. The warming shack will be open during this time. All rinks will be closed for maintenance from 8-10pm each evening. Pleasure skating would be available from 4:30-8pm on the pleasure skating rink.
- **If impacted, can any damage to gardens be minimized by transferring plantings:** The proposed sidewalks and hammerhead turnaround would affect garden plantings to a minimal degree. If the plan is approved, Duluth Parks and Recreation would encourage and help foster a relationship between Duluth Garden Flower Society and the Lower Chester Community to help identify potential community flower gardens.
- **Can a draft maintenance budget be provided:** The annual maintenance cost is estimated to be roughly \$3,830 and includes turf maintenance, playground maintenance, tree work/pruning, trail maintenance, mowing and trash removal.

Shoberg: Stated that after the comment period, staff realizes the strong community desire for pleasure skating over green space; therefore, staff concludes it should be included in the plan. Indicated the City will take advantage of opportunities for drainage improvements and turf growth. Recognized need for youth hockey and the plan's consideration of lowering impact to existing gardens. Discussed parking improvements that are included for safety purposes. Explained that while different opinions remain, staff do not feel additional planning would result in discernable changes to better meet such need. Requested action from the Parks Commission on the proposed Lower Chester Mini-Master Plan.

Vogtman: Requested confirmation whether 15th would be a one-way.



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Shoberg: Stated it is proposed to have a one-way up the hill to the tank with designated parking on one side with a connecting sidewalk to the lower park.

Vogtman: Questioned if 4th and 5th Street would be the same.

Shoberg: Confirmed the dead end on 5th would have a hammerhead turnaround and sidewalk addition, with no change on 4th.

Rohrbaugh: Expressed concerns regarding continued flooding for the pleasure rink and whether drainage improvements could guarantee use of green space in the off season.

Shoberg: Indicated that no numbers can be given; however, the current soil conditions are very poor and mostly mineral without much organics. Stated that we do know drainage improvements would reduce moisture and increase the quality of soil for vegetation growth. Noted the difficulty in putting an exact time frame on these improvements. Stated that it will require maintenance and regular seeding. Explained that it would not be like the turf on a dedicated soccer field, however they hope for a more durable space that can withstand the impact from the ice.

Rohrbaugh: Questioned if the hammerhead and sidewalk on 5th is negotiable.

Shoberg: Indicated that hammerheads are common occurrence throughout town and the Parks Division is looking to provide public access to these dead ends for safety issues and for vehicles to be able to pull around. Explained the adjacent sidewalk will get users off the street.

Edmondson: Quoted number of maintenance dollars and questioned if that included putting in sod.

Shoberg: Confirmed that maintenance is not the entire cost; construction will be completed in a series of phases:

- Phase I – rink, drain tile, turf, trail connections, playground: \$217,750
- Phase II – parking accessibility upgrades, parallel parking and one-way street: \$49,000
- Phase III – additional parking circulation upgrades (hammerhead and turn-around): \$39,900

Schmidt: Referred to the public comments and number of those that discussed the one-way street. Called attention to this to make sure the one-way is adequately studied.

Shoberg: Indicated the concept is supported by City Traffic Engineer; however, in the design process they will engage the engineering group further to understand the impacts.

Schmidt: Referred to the lighting concerns and the associated expense in fixing the problem. Questioned if something could happen to reduce invasive lighting during flooding before a long-term solution can be funded.

Shoberg: Confirmed that as part of the plan they will work with the hockey organization to reduce light trespassing during flooding hours.



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Schmidt: Questioned if taking a two-year hiatus from flooding the green space is possible in order to allow it to establish. Discussed whether use of the other hockey rinks during this time was possible in order to encourage proper grass growth.

Shoberg: Stated there are various ways to help turf along during the growing season, which Park Maintenance staff will take the lead on.

Schmidt: Questioned how melting ice would be prevented from going into the creek.

Shoberg: Stated they met with the Storm Water Engineer and will re-slope the site so melting ice can be captured into the exiting storm water sewer system. Confirmed it is able to hold the capacity and withstand the flow without further impact to the creek.

Schmidt: Questioned what competition for street parking would be like for neighborhood residents.

Shoberg: Explained that this is a tough problem and within the area there is no additional space for parking needs. Indicated the two proposals help improve parkability and traffic flow.

Schmidt: Questioned if Chester Park had a rink.

Dave Schaeffer (public): Confirmed there is no pleasure skating rink in Upper Chester Park.

Schmidt: Questioned if the current DAHA contract would have to be modified in response to tonight's decision.

Crosby: Stated that it is humbling to see the passion from all the user groups; and she respects all user groups. Expressed support of the plan but emphasized hopes for City to help preserve community plantings as best they could.

Shoberg: Confirmed neighborhood has done a great deal of work to beautify the space. Stated that any changes will be in regard to safety and they will do their best to relocate plantings.

Wodash: Questioned when DAHA is done with the rinks.

Shoberg: Confirmed March 31st.

Edmondson: Stated that if the park is to be considered a four-season park it should have green space.

Shoberg: Restated feedback they heard from citizens regarding the heavier use during the frozen season and stated the plan provides a balance for four season use.

Wodash: Questioned if further evaluation will take place later to determine if the turf and drainage improvements are succeeding.



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Shoberg: Confirmed that Park Maintenance will report as part of the ongoing maintenance plan.

Wendy Saliin (public): Stated her involvement with Neighbors of Lower Chester Park and indicated their involvement has always been about a holistic sustainable plan not for or against hockey. Indicated she does not view the plan as a compromise as all groups were not treated fairly. Emphasized the uncertainty of the proposed field improvements and indicated that the challenge for them is not funding a playground rather ensuring it isn't under water and ice when hockey is done. Stated that the survey comments were misleading.

Jason Wall (public): Explained that the park should not be defined like a sports complex similar to that of Wheeler Field, noting the Neighbor of Lower Chester Park's hopes for a four-season park. Indicated the survey was biased and the DAHA lease renewal without an approved Mini-Master Plan shows process flaws. Requested an environmental impact study on light, water, and noise pollution.

Patty Sobczak (public): Stated that she lives in the Lower Chester neighborhood and appreciates the consideration by Parks Commissioners. Indicated the plan is not a compromise and despite participation, the voices of the neighbors are not being heard. Explained that the park size should have an appropriate hockey program, which is currently not the case. Discussed the illegal parking and urged Commissioners to vote against the proposed plan.

Marge Shoots (public): Emphasized her love for hockey and youth recreation, noting how great hockey is for the neighborhood. Indicated that as one of the co-founders of Neighbors of Lower Chester Park, she feels the plan is strong, but requested the gardens they worked on be maintained.

Shoberg: Noted the schedule of meetings and stakeholders present on page ten of the Mini-Master Plan.

Roche: Indicated Lower Chester was another long and heavily analyzed planning process. Discussed their search for areas that hockey could go, however they are costly and not locally available. Emphasized survey results and expressed their hopes for a balance between the different user groups.

Isernhagen: Applauded Mr. Shoberg and user groups for their involvement. Indicated it is paramount the drainage be executed properly and if does not solve the problem, additional alternatives must be sought to accommodate youth hockey. Challenged Parks Division and DAHA to continue researching additional locations.

Wodash: Requested that drainage be reassessed at a later time.

Schmidt: Expressed frustration in the lack of an agreement on this plan in comparison to issues that face the City, such as homelessness. Stated hopes for groups to work together in the future, regardless of the outcome, as it goes beyond the park and speaks to the adult in all of us.

Edmondson: Thanked everyone for their time and effort but questioned if the plan is workable and a true compromise. Indicated that hockey is being crammed into a tiny neighborhood park.



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Rohrbaugh: Agreed with Commissioner Edmondson that hockey is being crammed into this location and indicated it is hard to believe there are no alternate locations. Stated that it feels like the Commission is being asked to decide whether Lower Chester should be a neighborhood or hockey park. Questioned if the plan would be revisited to determine if the drainage and parking is working.

Isernhagen: Echoed what other Commissioners expressed in regards to drainage issues and alternate locations for hockey.

Torch: Explained that flat space in town is hard to find and that the process is tough, but the park may not be viable without hockey's maintenance help. Expressed support of the plan.

MOTION/Second: Crosby/Vogtman motion to support the Lower Chester Mini Master Plan as presented. Vote: 7/2. Motion passes.

V. Commission Committees

A. Parks and Facilities – meeting date: TBA

Chair - Michael Schraepfer – John Schmidt, Dean Vogtman, Dennis Isernhagen [Dale Sellner]

B. Administrative (E-Board) – meeting date: Thursday, February 22 at noon in the Parks office

Chair – Erik Torch – Amanda Crosby, Tjaard Breeuwer [William Roche]

C. Trails and Bikeways – meeting date: TBD

Chair – Tjaard Breeuwer– Tiersa Wodash, Britt Rohrbaugh, Dudley Edmondson, Dean Vogtman, Art Johnston, Mike Casey, Eric Viken, Shawna Mullen [Andy Holak]

D. Recreation Programming (youth and adult) – meeting date: TBA

Chair - Erik Torch - Amanda Crosby, Dudley Edmondson, Kristin Bergerson [Pamela Page]

VI. Commissioner & Liaison Reports

Vogtman: Requested assistance from Commissioners for the Chester Creek Concert Series Selection Committee.

VII. New Business

A. Commission Committees

Torch: Stated that the standing committees that largely do not meet be discontinued. Confirmed the bylaws, the E-board is the only committee established. Suggested switching to ad hoc committees that are specific to issues that are pressing to the Parks Commission. Described golf and chester creek concerts as examples of committees.

VIII. Old Business

IX. Division Manager's Report

Roche: Questioned if there were any further questions and invited Mr. Filby Williams to comment on



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next steps for Lower Spirit.

Filby Williams: Expressed gratefulness for each Commissioner's service and stated that he realizes both plans presented are difficult. Thanked Commissioners for their service and indicated the next step will be convening with City Administration to understand their next steps in the process.

X. Public Comment

Schmidt: Questioned if this meeting would be Theresa Bajda's last.

Roche: Confirmed that in her current capacity it will be Ms. Bajda's last meeting, however she has accepted the Project Technician position and will join the Parks Stewardship team. Stated that Cheryl Skafte will be returning to her position as Volunteer Coordinator at the end of the month.

Schmidt: Thanked Ms. Bajda for her commitment to staff and commission.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm. Moved by Commissioner Schmidt. Second by Commissioner Vogtman.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at City Hall – Council Chambers.