



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2018
Parks & Recreation Annual Meeting

Spirit Mountain – Grand Avenue Chalet
8551 Grand Avenue



I. Opening Remarks & Welcoming Guests (5:00 pm)

Erik Torch, President of the Parks and Recreation Commission provided opening remarks and welcomed members of the Parks Commission, City Staff and Community Members to the 2018 Annual Meeting.

II. History of Duluth Parks (5:20 pm)

Tony Dierckins, co-author of Duluth's Historic Parks – Their First 160 Years, presented information on his findings of history highlights in Duluth Parks.

III. Parks Mission and Vision for 2018 (5:56 pm)

William Roche, Parks and Recreation Manager, thanked community partners, volunteers, staff, and Parks Commissioners for their dedication. Reviewed and discussed the mission and vision for Parks and Recreation.

IV. Recognition of Partners and Announcement of Duluth Parks Day (6:07 pm)

Cheryl Skafte, Volunteer Coordinator, thanked community members, park partners and volunteers who lend their time in making our park and trail system a success. Introduced key note speakers and their affiliation with the volunteer program. Announced Duluth Parks Day events.

V. Skyline Cleanup and Volunteerism (6:12 pm)

Candy Bruno and Lee Francisco shared their involvement with the Clean and Green initiative. Shared stories of experiences had during their time spent volunteering.

VI. Public Comments & Suggestions (6:23 pm)

Erik Torch thanked attendees again and opened the floor for public comments and suggestions.

Sue Hanky: Mentioned sign issues for unleashed dogs and pet waste litter. Mentioned she would like the City to provide better signage and have a campaign discussing safety concerns and environmental impacts of pet waste. Stated the importance of having designated off leash dog areas as well as the need for enforcement.

Glen Nelson: Stated gratitude towards the City on a great job maintaining the ski trail. Stated the amount of use the trail receives. Asked if the City could take a corridor of the trail to make into a park.

Joel Tracy: Thanked Tony Dierckins for his presentation, as well as the dedication spent by Parks Commissioners. Stated concern on the decision making process for Lower Spirit. Stated he would like to know how William Roche and the City Administration plan to address improving



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communication between City Council and the Parks Commission.

Brian Rostine: Stated the pickle ball opportunities at Woodland and Wheeler. Mentioned an open invite for the public to come play.

Mike Casey: Spoke on behalf of Friends of West Duluth Parks and Trails, stated an appreciation for the Parks Commission, and Parks and Recreation staff. Thanked the public for their participation during Parks Commission meetings. Expressed gratitude towards volunteers. Stated he hopes to see the process change with how Lower Spirit (previously known as Tallas Bay and Kayak Bay) was handled. Mentioned he would like to see a single track and more narrow trails at Piedmont for summer trail opportunities.

Don Buck: Mentioned the new bathrooms on Minnesota Point, invited all to see the new construction.

Gail Kernzin: Stated the amount of foot travel on Park Point. Expressed the sanitary concern of users not using bathroom facilities. Stated an appreciation for staff who maintain Enger Park.

VII. Adjourn (6:35 pm)

Presentation portion of Annual Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm and was followed by Parks and Recreation Staff tabling.

VIII. Next meeting

The next Parks and Recreation Commission monthly meeting will on Wednesday May 9, 2018 at 5:00pm in the City Hall Council Chambers.