



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes April 14, 2021

Webex



I. Call Meeting to Order

President Crosby called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Amanda Crosby, David Demmer, Tjaard Breeuwer, Britt Rohrbaugh, Barb Darland, Natalie Chin, Noah Kramer, Jill Joyce, Kala Pedersen, City Council Liaison – Arik Forsman, St. Louis County Commissioner – Ashley Grimm, Jill Lofald - ISD 709 School Board Liaison

Not Present: Jenny Peterson

III. Approval of March 10 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Demmer motioned for approval of the March 10 meeting minutes; second by Commissioner Darland. Unanimously approved.

IV. Presentations

A. Welcome Kala Pedersen, District 2 Seat

B. Welcome Jarod Meyer, Abigail Proulx, and Brett Odegard, Recreation Specialists (Informational) Alicia Watts, Assistant Manager

C. Annual Report (Informational) Jess Peterson, Manager

Peterson shared the 2020 Annual Report is now available on the Parks and Recreation webpage.

D. Forest Revitalization Project (Informational) Jim Shoberg, Senior Planner and Clark Christenson, City Forester

Joyce questioned the reasoning for this project. Clark Christensen shared the goal is to get the forest plots back on track from stressful living conditions caused by invasive species, crowding, non-native plants, deer, pollution, and climate factors. Jess Peterson reflected on the Imagine Duluth 2035 Plan, where invasive species are called out as important to manage.

Pedersen questioned what the timeline is for the tree thinning. Christensen stated he will continue field visits within the next couple of weeks and have bids out to contract within a couple of months. Stated the contractors will have two to three years to complete the project. Mentioned the wood will mostly be used for lumber and potentially utility poles.

Demmer questioned how many acres are within the City that could use this similar management style. Christensen stated there are great examples of healthy forest stands within Magney Snively while other places near development tend to have more issues with invasive species. Stated the Natural Resources Management Plan would be able to further define this need. Demmer questioned what the level of outreach will be entailed to inform the community of this project. Shoberg indicated close work will be done with the City's Communications Office, the press, and shared park partners have been involved. Mentioned there will be additional communications and signage to inform the public.

Joyce questioned how the newly planted trees will be protected from browsing. Christensen stated deer browsing is very high, shared the work will be less focused on planting and more on seeding. Shared there will be "over seeding" to compensate for the browsing. Highlighted monitoring will occur where the City can step in to make corrections.



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E. Lakewalk and Sea Wall (Informational) Cliff Knettel, Senior Planner

Knettel provided an update on the funding and planning associated with infrastructure and subsequent amenity improvements along portions of the Lakewalk and for the Sea Wall along Harbor Drive behind the DECC.

F. Asset Inventory Management (Informational) Jim Shoberg, Senior Planner

Demmer questioned if there will be a presentation once the inventory is complete. Shoberg stated a presentation and materials will be distributed in a year. Demmer questioned how the inventory will be used to make decisions on what needs to be upgraded. Shoberg stated the assets will have assigned owners such as partner organizations, County, City, MNDOT, etc. where the City can contact to inform of necessary attention to assets within the park system.

G. Park Buildings and Facilities Use (Informational) Jess Peterson, Manager

Peterson provided a status update on 32 park-related buildings, explained the categories of use for each building, and referenced the 2010 Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a guiding document, coupled with the Covid-19 pandemic, which guide decisions related to park buildings.

V. Commissioner Committees

Administrative (E-Board) meeting date: Thursday, May 27 at noon via Webex
Amanda Crosby, Tjaard Breeuwer [Jess Peterson, Alicia Watts, Jessica Haig, Jim Filby Williams]

Public Golf Committee – Monday, April 26 at 5 p.m., virtual meeting on Webex
David Demmer, Noah Kramer [Jess Peterson, Todd Armbruster, Jessica Haig, Jim Filby Williams]

VI. Commissioner & Liaison Reports

A. Public Golf Committee Report (Informational) Commissioner Demmer, Chair of Committee

Demmer stated the next meeting will focus on the Enger renovation process.

- VII. New Business**
- VIII. Old Business**
- IX. Division Report**
- X. Public Comment**

Judy Gibbs questioned the amount of attendees.

Tim Allen questioned if the closed buildings could be used for rentals.

Jayne Haugejorde shared the hope to have the clubhouse at Lester Park Golf Course remain open and to consider multiuse recreation at the site.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 9 via Webex.