



# PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes September 13, 2023

### Duluth City Hall, Council Chambers



#### I. Call Meeting to Order

President Crosby called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

#### II. Roll Call

Present: Amanda Crosby, Kala Pedersen, Tjaard Breeuwer, Josie LaPorte, Hailey Sigafus, Dave Cizmas, Terrance Lovejoy

Not Present: David Demmer, Sarah Beehler, Noah Hobbs – City Council Liaison, Annie Harala – St. Louis County Commissioner, Kelly Durick Eder – ISD 709 School Board Liaison

#### III. Approval of the August 9 Meeting Minutes

**Commissioner Breeuwer motioned to approve the June 14 meeting minutes. Commissioner Pedersen second. Unanimously approved. Motion carries.**

#### IV. Presentations

A. Northern Expressions Arts Collective (Informational) Patrick Weber, Director

Crosby questioned if there is a fee to participate in the programming. Weber stated that all programs are free, except on the fifth Thursday of a month an artist is paid for a program and materials. Stated they fundraise through grants and businesses to maximize access.

LaPorte questioned how many staff are employed. Weber stated that it is a volunteer run organization. Stated that the goal is to keep the costs down and allow families to participate without fees.

Lovejoy questioned if they are connected with the schools. Weber stated that part of a community connection initiative is connecting with schools as a part of a long term vision for year-round programming.

Lovejoy questioned if there is an age limit for participation. Weber stated that programs are intended for all ages and meant to be intergenerational and for all types of families.

B. Parks Programming Recap (Informational) Parks Recreation Specialists

C. Athletic Venue Reinvestment Initiative (Informational) Jim Filby Williams

LaPorte questioned which indoor sports are being considered as a part of this initiative. Jim Filby Williams stated that the intent is to look at all of the indoor athletics needs and come up with a practical vision for Duluth to meet those needs. Stated that it will be a challenge. Stated that individual athletic groups will need to come together across activities with a common vision for these facilities.

LaPorte questioned if pool sports have been considered at all. Jim Filby Williams stated that it has not thus far. Stated that it would need to meet the sports tourism test. Stated that it is not off the table, just has not been considered to date. Stated that traditional sports have been neglected and may take priority.

Lovejoy questioned if the community has indicated what they believe is the main barrier to participation in athletics. Peterson stated that the Essential Spaces plan includes equity mapping showing proximity to park amenities and facilities. Stated that the plan looks at other demographic factors that play a role in participation in recreation activities, mostly pay-to-play activities. Stated that geographic spread as well as program partnerships that allow for reduced prices are important.



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Sigafus questioned whether the plan will focus on equity or equality. Jim Filby Williams stated that Council used the term equity, although it is proposed to have approximately equal amounts for each section of Duluth.

**V. Commissioner Committees**

Administrative (E-Board) meeting date: Thursday, September 7 at noon, Parks Conference Room  
Amanda Crosby, David Demmer, Kala Pedersen [Jessica Peterson, Bridget Erickson]

**VI. Commissioner & Liaison Reports**

**VII. New Business**

**VIII. Old Business**

**IX. Division Report**

**X. Public Comment**

**XI. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm.

**XII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 8 at 5:00 p.m., Council Chambers.