



## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting of September 12, 2012



The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM at the Portman Community Recreation Center.

**Members Present:** Joel Braun, Karen Erickson, Edwin Hall, Kristin Ridgewell, Eric Viken, Jon Welles  
**Members Excused:** Thomas Beery, Andy Holak, Barbara Stark, Susan Beasy-Latto  
**Members Absent:** Erica Erickson,

The minutes for the meeting of August 8, 2012 were approved on motion of Kristin Ridgewell; second by Edwin Hall; unanimous

Roshanda Smiley, Director of Public Administration for the City of Duluth, was in attendance.

### PRESENTATIONS:

#### Washington Square Mini Master Plan - Luke Sydow

- options for public meetings and ways of securing resident opinion were presented
- current uses for this area are dog walking and children playing; It is unorganized play with no scheduled recreation
- needs for the area include accessibility, shade, dog trails, youth activities, and (more specific focus for) disc golf for older youth
- the proposal includes wood chip walkways and a bridge over the creek to join the two areas; improved turf area for soccer and two courts for tennis
- the park is expected to be used as a neighborhood park, not specifically a destination park ; the residents in attendance expressed concern with changing the current uses; for example, tennis courts, which incorporate a cement surface needing upkeep and serve only a seasonal use; they like the park area as it is now
- Reed Byers, representing East High School Alumni, was present declaring that the Alumni want to publicly or privately cooperate with the City of Duluth for construction of tennis courts in the eastern area of the City  
**Motion was made by Edwin Hall to table consideration of the Washington Park Master Plan until the October Meeting pending further review by the City, East Alumni, and other interested parties for alternative sites for tennis courts in the eastern part of the City - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Viken - unanimously supported.**
- further review by the City, East Alumni and other interested parties of the alternative tennis court sites in the east end of the City to follow.

#### Lower Chester Mini Master - Luke Sydow

- there have been several meetings with the neighborhood and the group which manages the area, Neighbors of Lower Chester Park; they noted that this year, they will be sharing the space with students in the Congdon hockey program as Congdon is closed for school construction; they are in agreement with the plan but would like to have another meeting with all parties involved to review the proposal; the area is well used and there is involvement with many UMD students
- there are several needed items: drainage, accessibility, play area, expansion of the Seeds of Success area with a new shed for their tools; Neighbors of Lower Chester Park would also like consideration of a picnic area, sidewalk and stair repairs, and a possible bocce court

**Motion was made by Kristin Ridgewell to table the Lower Chester Mini Master Plan pending further review - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jon Welles - passed unanimously.**

The Neighbors of Lower Chester Park presented the proposed Action Steps and details for same with the major areas of:

- A. Repair buildings as needed
- B. Test Chiller
- C. Ice Rink modifications
- D. Electrical repairs
- E. Grade open area for better "Turf Play"
- F. Install site amenities
- G. Fix erosion issues along the "backside" of the park
- H. Improve connection to 4<sup>th</sup> Street

**Plans for Irving** - Tari Rayala (informational only)

- Tari Rayala, City Architect, was not able to attend the meeting
- She sent a written update which Manager Kathy Bergen will e-mail to the Commissioners.

**COMMISSION COMMITTEES:**

No activity, no reports

**COMMISSIONER & LIASON REPORTS:**

Edwin Hall requested a presentation on where the enhanced maintenance funds are being spent.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Judy Gibbs presented a proposal for grooming standards for ski trails. She noted that if these become the standard, the City can file for FEMA funds to replace some bridges lost due to flooding, which would then bring them up to current standards. The Standards will be posted on the City's web site.

**Motion was made by Kristen Ridgewell to adopt higher ski trail grooming standards per recommendations presented by John Aalberg in report dated July 21, 2012 - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Viken - passed unanimously.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

City Sourced had no action but is on the list of items for Information Systems Department.

**DIVISION MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Kathy Bergen presented the "Good News" for the month; the Parks Fund Neighborhood Grants are now in progress and it is hoped that the process can be completed and brought to the Commission in November; there is \$60,000 in the fund and each grant request can be for a maximum of \$5,000.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM on motion of Kristin Ridgewell supported by Eric Viken; unanimous.

Prepared by Karen Erickson, Secretary