

RECREATION, LIBRARIES AND AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

11-0255R

RESOLUTION APPROVING WORK PERMITS FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS  
AT SPIRIT MOUNTAIN.

CITY PROPOSAL:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5(e) of the Laws of Minnesota, Chapter 327 (the "act"), certain construction work affecting the property on the Spirit Mountain recreation area (the "area") is subject to receiving a permit from the city council after hearings and recommendations from the planning commission and the parks and recreation board; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2011, the Spirit Mountain recreation area authority board of directors approved a project consisting of a 700 foot zip line facility, a six lane snow tubing park, a miniature golf course facility and an overflow parking facility (the "project") to be constructed and installed on the area; and

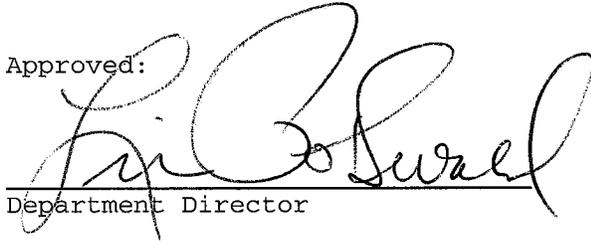
WHEREAS, on April 13, 2011, the parks and recreation board conducted a public hearing on the proposed construction and installation of the project on the Area and after said hearing unanimously recommended approval of the project; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2011, the Duluth planning commission conducted a public hearing on the proposed construction and installation of the project on the area and after said hearing unanimously recommended approval of the project.

RESOLVED, that the city council of the city of Duluth hereby grants a permit for the construction and installation of the project on the area in

conformance with those documents on file in the office of the city clerk as  
Public Document No. \_\_\_\_\_.

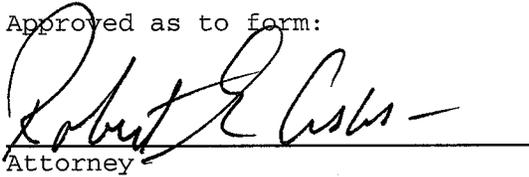
Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Director

Approved for presentation to council:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor

PARKS/ATTY REA:dma 05/12/2011

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to grant a permit for the construction and installation of a zip line facility, a six lane snow tubing park, a miniature golf course and an overflow parking lot on the Area as is required by the Spirit Mountain Legislation.

For a more comprehensive description of the proposed project, see the public documents and the appended materials.



## **I. PROJECT BACKGROUND – ZIP LINE, MINIATURE GOLF COURSE, SNOW TUBING PARK, OVERFLOW PARKING**

The Spirit Mountain Recreation Area is committed to pursuing attractions and experiences that will enhance the facility and create year round activities for visitors and residents of the region.

Like the extremely successful alpine coaster which opened to the public on July 1, 2010, the zip line is envisioned to be a year round attraction. The miniature golf course will be a summer attraction and the snow tubing park will provide another winter offering for our guests. However, the placement of the tubing park is designed for the potential of installing a unique new surface that will allow for a summer tubing park in the future.

All three projects will provide Spirit Mountain with more solid financial footing and allow us to continue to make much needed capital investments in the facility; i.e. expanded snowmaking, upgraded parking lots and structural changes to improve energy efficiency.

The overflow parking lot is necessary to serve the new attractions. The parking lot built for the alpine coaster was not sufficient to accommodate all the visitors on busy summer days and we ran a shuttle from outlying parking lots to accommodate the large numbers of visitors.

## **II. REQUEST**

Pursuant to the Spirit Mountain enabling legislation, Laws of Minnesota for 1973, Chapter 327, Section 5 (e) Spirit Mountain Recreation Area Authority requests approval for the construction of a zip line, miniature golf course, snow tubing park and overflow parking area, all of which are consistent with the mission of Spirit Mountain;

To facilitate the development of a land area with the following objectives:

- 1- The development of wide-range recreational facilities available to both local residents and tourists.
- 2- The aiding of the economy of northeastern Minnesota by encouraging private enterprise efforts in conjunction with the recreational facilities.
- 3- The preservation of the environment in the area by a timely and intelligent plan of development.

The specific request is approval for construction of a 700' zip line, nine-hole miniature golf course, six lane snow tubing park and an 61 space overflow parking lot. This plan was unanimously approved by the Spirit Mountain Recreation Area Authority on March 21, 2011 and unanimously approved by the Duluth Parks and Recreation Commission on April 13, 2011.

### **III. PROJECT DETAIL – ZIP LINE**

The Spirit Mountain zip line, much like the recently installed alpine coaster, is a new and unique attraction and will be the only one in the Midwest. This zip line is unique in that it is not necessary to run a lift to return riders to the top of the mountain after their thrilling ride down the mountain side.

This zip line takes up to two riders on an exciting 700' ride down, and then returns them to the top on the same cable. The ride is different from a traditional zip line in that the riders are strapped in to a double seat, rather than the less user friendly harness equipment typically used, which makes this a great ride for families and is also handicap accessible.

The ride will start at the top of Spirit Mountain, to the south and west of the alpine coaster will run through the trees. Minimal clearing is required to build the zip line, one of the attractions of the site we've chosen is the ride through the trees and the spectacular view of the river below.

The zip line is not limited to summer; rather the design of the ride allows year round operation and thus, a greater source of revenue and another, year round attraction for the community and visitors. The enhanced revenue from this operation will enable Spirit Mountain to make much needed investments in the operation, such as a new water supply for snowmaking, new lifts and improved energy efficiency and ADA enhancements in the chalet. All upgrades cited as necessary to the operation in the Master Plan document.

### **MINIATURE GOLF**

A nine-hole miniature golf course will be located adjacent to the path to the alpine coaster and is designed to move players back and forth across the drainage pond for the parking lot run off.

Once again, it's a very unique attraction, unlike any other miniature golf course and has been designed by famed local architect David Salmela. Rather than creating a course that makes a big footprint on the space, Salmela has designed the course to blend into the surroundings and complement the wooded area. Another unique feature is the wheelchair accessibility of the course.

The construction materials are recycled plastics and Richlite from Intectural.

## **SNOW TUBING PARK**

A six lane snow tubing park is planned for a lesser used ski run at the top of the Spirit Express Chair lift. Finding a site to provide snow tubing has proven to be a challenge, even with the amount of land Spirit Mountain encompasses. We have identified an area that would lend itself extremely well to the installation of a six lane tube run.

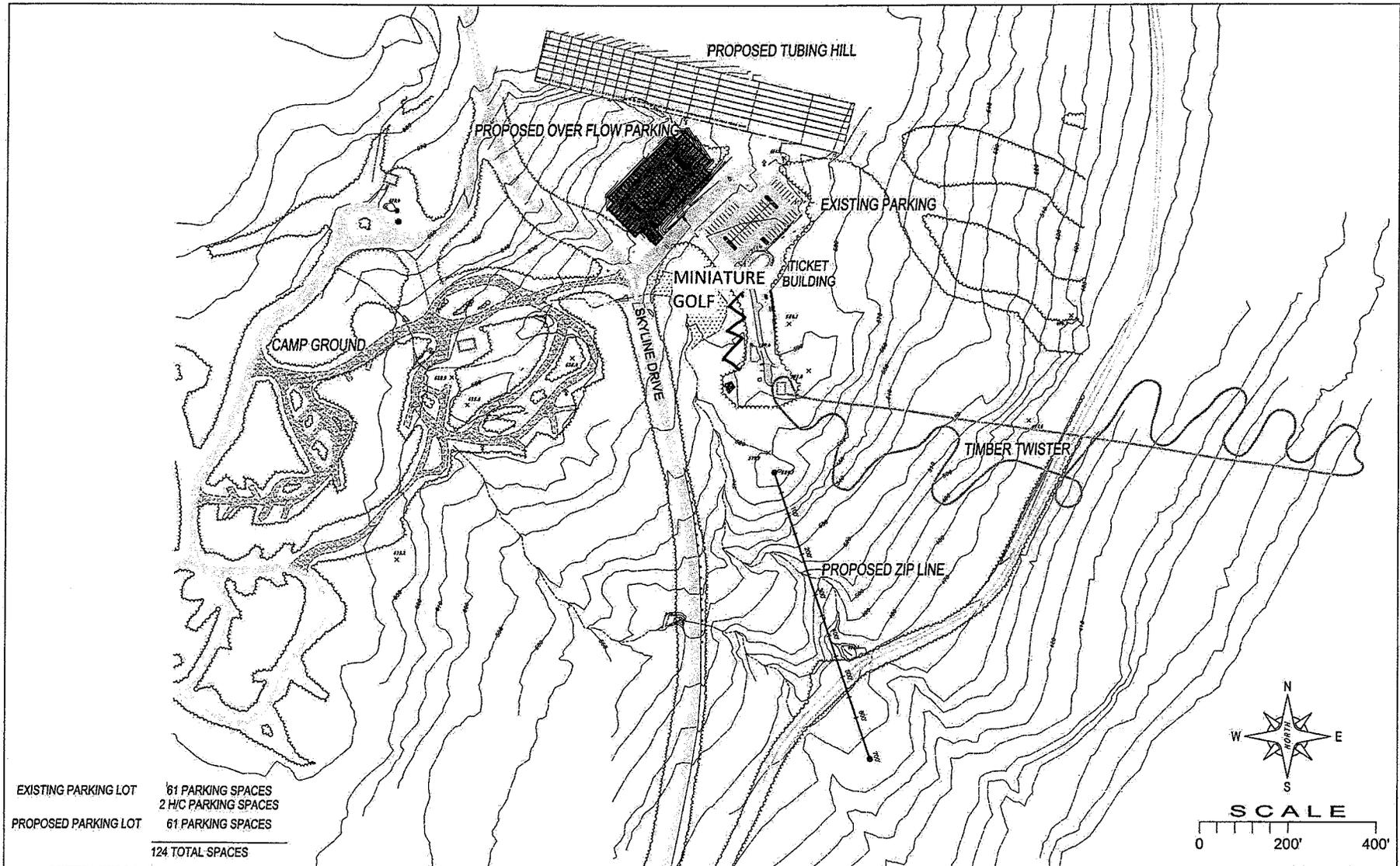
The challenge with tubing is finding a site with suitable run off area to allow the tubes to slow adequately before coming to a stop. By taking the top half of the Sour Dough Sam run we are able to make an exciting, safe, tubing park.

Clearing will be done to the north side of the Sour Dough Sam run to allow for skier traffic around the tube park.

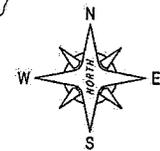
## **OVERFLOW PARKING LOT**

The 64 space parking lot built for the alpine coaster was not sufficient on busy days to accommodate the visitors coming to experience this unique attraction. With the addition of more attractions in this same area an overflow parking lot is required. Shuttles from outlying parking lots were provided last summer to accommodate the volume, but it would be a much better guest experience to park on site.

The parking lot is sited adjacent to the tubing park and the existing parking lot and will provide us with 61 spaces and will conform to the new UDC.



EXISTING PARKING LOT 61 PARKING SPACES  
 2 H/C PARKING SPACES  
 PROPOSED PARKING LOT 61 PARKING SPACES  
 124 TOTAL SPACES



NO.	DATE	REVISION	BY	CHKD.
1				
2				
3				

# Soaring Eagle

All New Zip Line

