

## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **RESOLUTION COMMENDING MAYOR DON NESS FOR HIS VISION, DEDICATION AND LEADERSHIP**

December 9, 2015

#### **WHEREAS,**

Don Ness has provided exemplary vision, dedication, and leadership during his two terms as Mayor of the City of Duluth, Minnesota, from 2008 to 2016, recognizing that the City of Duluth's extensive public parks, gardens, recreation areas, and trails systems are vital to a resident's quality of life and a vibrant economy,

Don Ness' vision for the City of Duluth saw the need for a significant transformation in the scope and quality of the parks, recreation areas, and trail systems that should be available to its citizens for their use and enjoyment,

Don Ness' dedication to the quality of life of all citizens of Duluth led to his reaching out to diverse users of the City's extensive parks, recreation areas, and trails, calling on them to join together in an ambitious and challenging endeavor to enhance the scope and quality of Duluth's public spaces for its citizens and future generations,

Citizens of the City of Duluth responded to Don Ness' leadership in remarkable ways, helping design a Duluth Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a Trails and Bikeways Master Plan, a Cross Country Ski Master Plan, numerous mini master plans for parks and recreation areas from Brighton Beach, Hartley Park, Chester Bowl, Central Hillside, Wade Wheeler Western Sports Corridor, Memorial Park, Morgan Park, and Gary New Duluth, to Chambers Grove, expanding Duluth's landmark Lakewalk, renovating Enger Tower and Wade Stadium, building new Duluth Traverse and Cross City trails systems, approving a referendum establishing a dedicated Parks Fund to enhance critical annual funding, and most recently, supporting Don Ness' historic St. Louis River Corridor Initiative, investing in public park and trail improvements from Lincoln Park to the Fond du Lac neighborhood, and

Don Ness' leadership leaves the City of Duluth with an energized commitment toward realizing his vision for a transformative enhancement of the City's parks, recreation areas, and trails for future generations.

#### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,**

That the Parks and Recreation Commission extends its profound thanks and gratitude to Don Ness on behalf of the citizens of Duluth, for his exemplary vision, dedication, and strong leadership in charting the course for a transformation of the city of Duluth's public parks, gardens, recreation areas, and trails systems,

This Resolution, proposed by Edwin Hall, President of the Parks Commission, and seconded by JC Welles, Vice President of the Parks Commission, was unanimously approved by all members of the Commission present at a meeting of the Parks Commission on December 9, 2015.