



Parks & Recreation Commission

Minutes of August 10, 2011

Meeting called to order at 4:12 PM by Eric Viken.

The Parks Commission then welcomed new Parks Commissioner, Edwin Hall.

- Members Present:** Karen Erickson, Edwin Hall, Susan Beasy Latto, Patti Nadeau, Barbara Stark, Eric Viken, Jon Welles
- Members Excused:** Joel Braun, Kristin Ridgewell
- Members Absent:** Thomas Beery, Andy Holak
- Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Patti Nadeau to approve the July 13 minutes as written – 2nd by Karen Erickson – approved unanimously.

Presentations:

Update on Trails and Bikeways Master Plan - Judy Gibbs (informational)

- Judy gave an update on current and future trail work.
- The TAG group will meet on August 22nd from 2pm-4pm at the Central Hillside Community Center to review the trails master plan; this will be followed by two public meetings, one on September 14th at CHCC from 6:30 – 8:00 PM, the other September 21 at Hartley Nature Center
- Judy will send the Master Plan to the Park Commissioners before the August 22 meeting so they have a chance to review it before the public meetings
- the final plan might be brought to the Parks Commission in October
- Judy also reported on the accessible trail project at Enger Park

Dedicated Park Fund

Kathy reported that Mayor Ness is committed to putting a referendum on the November ballot to create a dedicated park fund. Such a levy is important to the implementation of both the parks and trails master plans. Kathy encourages all Commissioners to get involved in promoting the levy if it is approved by City Council. Edwin made the motion as follows:

The following motion was made by Edwin Hall - “The Parks and Recreation Commission supports the approval by the Duluth City Council of a Parks and Recreation Enterprise Fund Referendum for the November 2011 election, noting that holding such a referendum in 2011 is an integral part of the Parks and recreation Mater Plan approved by the City Council in January of 2011. Passage of such a referendum is critical to restore funding to maintain and improve Duluth Parks, Trails, and Recreation Facilities” – 2nd by Jon Welles – passed unanimously. A request was made to have the motion sent to the Mayor for his use with the City Council.

Commission Committee Reports:

Facilities - no report

Administrative (E-Board) - no report; next meeting to be held on August 19

Parks and Trails - some research has been done on how other communities use signage to coordinate trail usage

Youth Programming - no report

Recreation - Superior Hiking Trail was unable to accept their recreation grant but all others were issued

Commissioner & Liaison Reports

Karen Erickson has heard very positive reports about Enger Park.

Patti Nadeau had a question regarding the accessibility of the baby’s swing at Bayfront.

Judy Seliga Punyko met recently with Mayor Ness and Superintendent Foster regarding the school referendum. On September 17 from 1-5 PM, there will be open houses at the five new schools. Classes begin Thursday, September 8 and Friday, September 9 this year.

New Business

Proposed name change for a park – current policy

Kathy Bergen reported that there will be some park name changes coming before the Commission in the near future before going on to the City Council; members should review the bylaws and be familiar with the process.

Old Business

Update on Mayor’s Task Force on Land Disposition - the next meeting will be held at City Hall to further discuss and consider city owned land and all the layers of ownership, environment, and use.

The following motion was made by Edwin Hall “Resolved that the Parks and Recreation Commission be informed and consulted prior to the dispensation of city land that abuts a city park, trail, or recreation area, or abuts land, such as Skyline Drive, highlighted as a priority area in The City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and that this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor and appropriate officials in the City Government” - 2nd by Karen Erickson - passed unanimously. A request was made to have the motion sent to the Mayor for his use with the City Council.

Update on Friends of the Parks - the group will organize to advocate for passage of the referendum to create a dedicated park fund.

Division Manager’s Report:

Handed out by Kathy Bergen with highlights presented.

Speakers/Public Comment:

None

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned by Eric Viken at approximately 5:45 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Barbara Stark and Eric Viken