



Parks & Recreation Commission

Minutes of November 9, 2011

Meeting called to order at approximately 5:02 PM by Joel Braun.

Roll Call

Members Present: Thomas Beery, Joel Braun, Erica Erickson, Karen Erickson, Andy Holak, Susan Beasy Latto, Barbara Stark, Eric Viken,

Members Excused: Edwin Hall, Kristin Ridgeway, Jon Welles

Members Absent: none

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Karen Erickson to accept the minutes of October 5 and October 12 as written – 2nd by Andy Holak - approved unanimously 8-0.

Welcome to Erica Erickson who has replaced Patti Nadeau as representative for the Disabilities Commission.

Presentations:

Parks Referendum – Kathy Bergen

- Kathy discussed the recent referendum approval by Duluth voters and how the commission can help the Parks Division move forward.
- Kathy would like the Parks Commission to be more of a conduit for public input and to review projects as part of public meetings after parks staff has designed future projects.

New Business:

Sale of part of Munger Park–11th Avenue East and E 8th St – Kathy Bergen

- A landowner adjacent to Munger Park has approached Kathy about buying a portion of the Munger Park. We need to develop a process on how to handle inquiries such as this. A discussion ensued on how commission members thought the process should be handled.
- The Parks and Trails Committee was asked to put together a plan for evaluating sales of park land. This item will be tabled for at least one month while we wait for criteria from the Mayor's Land Use Task Force.

New field at Harrison for people with disabilities

- Kathy made a presentation to the commission to keep them informed about the new field at Harrison.

Speakers/Public Comment:

- Sandy Robinson from the East Hillside mentioned that the city website needs to be modified; it still is currently showing the wrong number of commissioners and the wrong districts.
- Sandy Robinson volunteers at Portland Square and pointed out that many of the parks are busy at certain times of the day but often not busy in the morning and the early evening when people are going back and forth to work, so they may have an incorrect perception of how busy the park is. Sandy pointed out that Portland Square is often packed with people at certain times of the day.

Commission Committee Reports

Each Committee to Review Action Steps from Master Plan to determine 2012 projects

Facilities - no report

Administrative - next meeting on November 18 at Noon

Parks and Trails - the committee met on October 28; Thomas Beery and Eric Viken gave updates on what the committee has been working on and what they will be working on in the future. The committee will meet again on November 11 at 8 AM.

Youth Programming - no report

Recreation - no report

- President Joel Braun asked the commissioners to review the 54 Action Steps of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Eric Viken recommended we consider moving the Parks from the Parks and Trails committee to the Facilities committee

Commissioner & Liaison Reports

- Thomas Beery – Thomas Beery is concerned about the Enger Park Zen garden and facilities like it that require so much effort to maintain.
- Erica Erickson inquired on where adult sport leagues are covered. Youth programming was the reply, which then prompted a discussion to remove the “Youth” from programming since there are many adults that participate in leagues and other programming.

Old Business

Updates on key initiatives for Master Plans

Update on Mayor’s Task Force on Land Disposition

Update on Trail and Bikeway Plan

- approved by the City Council

Update on Indian Point Campground

- Grant has been submitted

Division Manager’s Report:

Handed out by Kathy Bergen and then Kathy presented the highlights.

The next commission meeting to be held at 5 PM.

Adjournment:

Motion made to adjourn by Susan Beasy-Latto – 2nd by Andy Holak - meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Eric Viken