



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes June 14, 2023

Duluth City Hall, Council Chambers



I. Call Meeting to Order

President Crosby called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Amanda Crosby, Kala Pedersen, Tjaard Breeuwer, Hailey Sigafus, Dave Cizmas, Josie LaPorte, Terrance Lovejoy, Noah Hobbs – City Council Liaison

Not Present: David Demmer, Sarah Beehler, Annie Harala – St. Louis County Commissioner, Kelly Durick Eder – ISD 709 School Board Liaison

III. Approval of the May 10 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Breeuwer motioned to approve the May 10 meeting minutes. Commissioner Lovejoy second. Unanimously approved. Motion carries.

IV. Presentations

A. Wolfpack Lacrosse (Informational) Sam Litman and Andrea Minnehan

President Crosby questioned how much they can grow in their current space. Litman stated they have the capacity to grow 30-40 members for the girls and a dozen or so for the boys. Stated finding indoor space during the winter and spring is a challenge.

Cizmas questioned what size of facility they need. Litman stated that the boys play on a 110yd long field, and 60yd width. Stated that Duluth Heights is not long enough.

Lovejoy questioned if there are programs across the state that they coordinate with. Minnehan stated they are a part of the Great Northern Lacrosse League based out of the Twin Cities metro. Stated they collaborate within that organization.

Peterson questioned if they are hosting games in Duluth or traveling elsewhere. Minnehan stated that they do travel, but also choose host weekends in Duluth.

B. Hillside Sport Court Park Plan (For Future Action) Katie Bennett, Senior Parks Planner

Sigafus questioned if there was any conversation about fencing in the community garden portion. Bennett stated that the conversation will continue with the partner organizations. Stated that it is typical for at least part of a community garden space to be fenced off.

Breeuwer questioned if there will be ramp access from 7th street. Bennett stated that it would be quite costly to change the stairs to a ramp. Stated the accessibility will be focused on 8th St and 5th Ave E.

Breeuwer questioned if alleys are considered public roads. Peterson stated that horizontal alley is public, while the vertical alley is owned by Duluth HRA.

Breeuwer questioned what the timeline is for the building removal. Bennett stated that the building demo would likely be done before sidewalks would be installed.

Councilor Tomanek questioned if the trees are currently diseased or if the removal is preventative. Bennett stated that the trees have been treated and are likely impacted by EAB.



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Councilor Tomanek questioned where the nearest public restroom is. Peterson stated that we can check. Peterson stated that this site usually has portable restrooms. Questioned if the porta potties have had vandalism. Peterson stated that we can check into that.

Councilor Tomanek questioned if there is a kitchen in the building. Peterson stated that the building has not been entered because it is unsafe. Stated that facilities staff would have more information.

Cizmas stated that all ash trees will die in the next few years. Stated that being proactive now keeps trees from becoming a hazard.

Public Comment

Austin Konrath spoke on the community garden proposal for Hillside Sport Court Park.

V. Commissioner Committees

Administrative (E-Board) meeting date: Thursday, August 3 at noon, Parks Conference Room
Amanda Crosby, David Demmer, Kala Pedersen [Jessica Peterson, Bridget Erickson]

VI. Commissioner & Liaison Reports

VII. New Business

A. Lincoln Park Pavilion Commemorative Naming (Action Requested) Jessica Peterson, Parks and Recreation Manager and Councilor Terese Tomanek

Commissioner Pedersen motioned to support the commemorative naming of the Lincoln Park stone pavilion in honor and memory of Councilor Renee K. Van Nelt. Commissioner LaPorte second. Unanimously approved. Motion carries.

VIII. Old Business

A. Lakewalk Interpretive Plan (Action Requested) Cliff Knettel, Senior Parks Planner

Commissioner LaPorte motioned to recommend approval of the Lakewalk Interpretive Plan to City Council. Commissioner Breeuwer second. Unanimously approved. Motion carries.

IX. Division Report

X. Public Comment

Meg Litts spoke on the community garden proposal for Hillside Sport Court Park.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 9 at 5:00 p.m., Council Chambers.