



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes

Parks and Recreation Commission.

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

5:00 PM City Hall – Council Chambers (3rd Floor), 411 West First
Street, Duluth, MN 55802

Meeting location: City Hall, Conference Room 330

Call Meeting to Order

President Demmer called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Roll Call

Present: David Demmer, Kala Pedersen, Terrance Lovejoy, Beth Olson, Sarah Beehler, Brooke Marinan, Connie Cummins, Tim Meyer, Jordon Johnson-City Council Liaison, Henry Banks-School Board Liaison

Not Present: Sara Cole, Ashley Grimm-St. Louis County Board Liaison

E-Board Nominations and Election (Action Requested)

Pedersen questioned if it would be allowed to nominate LaPorte despite her reappointment still not confirmed. Peterson stated that nominations are limited to seated members. Stated that an option would be to hold off filling the secretary seat until June.

Demmer questioned if it would be allowed to elect a secretary in April, then if parties are willing and able, the elected secretary resign the secretary position to allow LaPorte to resume the secretary role once reappointed. Peterson stated that a resignation would need to be in writing, then another election could be held.

Meyer nominated himself as secretary. Beehler second. Unanimously approved.

Beehler nominated Demmer as vice president. Meyer second. Unanimously approved.

Demmer nominated Pedersen as president. Marinan second. Unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of March 11 Meeting Minutes

Demmer motioned to approve the March 11 meeting minutes. Meyer second. Unanimously approved.

Presentations

Volunteer Recognition - Arrowhead Bowhunters Alliance

Phil Lockett accepted the volunteer recognition on behalf of the Arrowhead Bowhunters Alliance.

Discussed.

2025 Parks & Recreation Annual Report

Demmer questioned what the initial outlook is for the upcoming 2027 Parks budget. Peterson stated that a meeting is scheduled to begin the 2027 budget conversation next week. Demmer requested a near future update on the budget. Councilor Johnson stated that he plans to meet with the finance director to understand the budget better. Stated that he is an advocate for the value of parks and partnerships that move things forward.

Discussed.

Chapter 35 Ordinance Amendment: Regulating Private Egress Across the Marten Trail (Informational) Cliff Knettel and Jim Shoberg

Banks questioned how many people the City has met with on this property issue. Shoberg stated that the estimated impact is 25-30 homes. Stated that the City has met with about two dozen property owners.

Pedersen questioned how this information will be communicated to new property owners that move into this area. Shoberg stated that the hope is that neighbors will communicate. Knettel stated that an option would be to send periodic mailings to new property owners.

Demmer questioned what the percentage is of shoreline owned by the City versus privately owned. Shoberg stated that it is difficult to reach exact percentages, but segments go back and forth between City and private ownership along the length of the trail. Demmer questioned if there has been consideration for an easement on property titles. Shoberg stated that many of these properties were purchased in a way that does not allow for an easement with the grant funding of the trail project. Stated that this permitting process is the most straightforward method.

Demmer questioned if there is a distinction in requirements between water access over City property or private property. Shoberg stated that there are different requirements for private property. Stated that all water access must

remain natural surface.

Demmer questioned what is meant by "structures" in this ordinance. Shoberg stated that it refers to anything that is built beyond simply moving dirt.

Meyer questioned if there was anything learned from the Lakewalk damage in the past that was incorporated into this trail project. Shoberg stated that the current trail alignment is already set. Stated that what can be controlled now are the paths down to the water, limiting and preventing erosion. Knettel stated that they have learned about what types of plants will help to mitigate erosion. Shoberg stated that removal of non-native plant species will allow for more stabilization.

Beehler questioned what the purpose of the April 20 public meeting is. Shoberg stated that the meeting will review the ordinance, review the process, and go over new information.

Cummins questioned if all property owners that currently have a dock in the water will be guaranteed to receive a permit. Shoberg stated that there may be some changes in the water access, but that all current docks will be able to receive a permit. Cummins questioned if other property owners may be denied access if they request it. Shoberg stated that most properties will be able to be accommodated, especially if they are willing to share access with neighbors.

Cummins questioned what enforcement looks like for public water access and private docks. Shoberg stated that the signage will inform people that the dock is private property. Knettel stated that docks are enforced by the DNR, and trespassing is enforced by the police department.

Demmer questioned if a dock can be considered private property in public waters. Shoberg stated that the dock structure itself is considered private property because it is mobile infrastructure.

Discussed.

Commission Committees

Administrative (E-Board) - Thursday, June 4 at noon, Parks Conference Room

Discussed.

Commissioner & Liaison Reports

Demmer commented on the Lester Land Use Study process.

New Business

Old Business

Division Report

April 2026 Division Report

Discussed.

Public Comment

Adjournment

Next meeting - Wednesday, June 10 at 5:00 pm, Council Chambers

Discussed.