



City of Duluth

411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Minutes

Parks and Recreation Commission.

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

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

Call Meeting to Order

Called to order at 5:04pm

Roll Call

Present: Kala Pedersen, Josie LaPorte, Sarah Beehler, Connie Cummins,
Jason Hirt, Jordon Johnson - City Council Liaison, Ashley Grimm - St. Louis
County Board Liaison

Not Present: David Demmer, Terrance Lovejoy, Beth Olson, Sara Cole, Tim
Meyer, Brooke Marinar, Henry Banks - School Board Liaison

Quorum not met.

At 10 minutes, Brooke Marinar arrived and the Commission reached quorum.

E-Board Secretary Nominations and Election

Pedersen motioned to amend the agenda to do a call for nominations for the
E-Board position of Secretary. Beehler second. Unanimously approved.

LaPorte nominated herself as secretary. Marinar second. Unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of April 8 Meeting Minutes

Beehler motioned to approve the April 8 meeting minutes. LaPorte second.
Unanimously approved.

Presentations

Volunteer Recognition - Dawn Buck

Discussed.

Park Point Recreation Area Plan (Action Requested) Katie Bennett, Senior

Parks Planner

Beehler questioned what the increase in parking spots is. Bennett stated that the estimated increase is more than 100 parking spots.

Beehler questioned why the Beach House is not a part of this plan. Peterson stated that the Beach House is included in the footprint of the Recreation Area but that the focus of this plan is exterior recreation improvements. Stated that the Beach House has a separate funding mechanism for upkeep and maintenance.

Beehler questioned if there will be an increase in restrooms. Bennett stated that the proposed plan includes an added vault toilet.

Cummins questioned what the harbor side beach encouragement entails. Bennett stated that the intent is to provide more formalized and clear access points to the bay side beach area.

LaPorte questioned what accessibility looks like incorporated in the plan. Bennett stated that widths, materials, slopes, etc., will all be to accessibility standards. Stated that there will be accessible parking and accessible connections to other parts of the park.

LaPorte questioned how getting parks up to ADA standards factors into deferred maintenance. Peterson stated that there are layers to accessibility considerations, with both ADA and ABA guidelines to help make decisions on park infrastructure. Stated that most of the accessibility improvements occur within a complete park reset planning process. Stated that there are times that specific requests come in from residents or elected officials, and each request is evaluated for what accommodations can be made. Stated that funding is always a consideration.

Hirt questioned if the field space will be simply improved or if it will be expanded to accommodate a variety of programming and sports. Bennett stated that the intent is to size it to accommodate a full-size soccer field. Stated that the field will be of a higher quality. Stated that the Parks & Recreation staff intend to use the space for programming and expect that other groups will also.

Grimm questioned if the field and green space will remain big enough to host the community events that have been held in this space. Bennett stated that the total amount of green space will be reduced but consolidated into one location. Stated that large community events were considered in the plan process.

Grimm questioned if there were any comments received from the community regarding a need for changing stalls. Bennett stated that this topic did not come up much, but it could be a topic to consider during the design process.

LaPorte motioned to recommend that City Council adopts the Park Point Recreation Area Plan. Beehler second. Unanimously approved.

Magney Snively Management Plan Update (Informational) Kate Kubiak,

Natural Resources Coordinator

Beehler questioned why there was such a large gap of time between the Magney Snively Natural Area and the subsequent Natural Areas in Duluth. Kubiak stated that the State was originally planning to make it a Scientific Natural Area but it became a Designated Natural Area with the City instead. Stated that the Natural Areas program was resurrected years later.

Cummins questioned what the boundary line is showing on the map. Shoberg stated that it shows the boundary of the Magney Snively DNAP. Kubiak stated that the boundary is between City parcels and County tax-forfeit parcels.

Hirt questioned how the City decommissions unauthorized trails. Shoberg stated that there is an inventory of unauthorized, rogue trails. Stated that signage helps, especially if the signage includes reasons why the trail is closed. Stated that hand tools can be used to move vegetation back into the trail corridor and close the trail.

Discussed.

Commission Committees

Administrative (E-Board) - Thursday, August 6 at noon, Parks Conference Room

Discussed.

Commissioner & Liaison Reports

New Business

Old Business

Division Report

June 2026 Division Report

Discussed.

Public Comment

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, August 12 at 5:00pm, Council Chambers

Discussed.