

Regular Meeting.  
Parks Commission May 1, 2017 4:30 p.m.  
City Hall

Present: Fryc, Martinson, Krohn, Urbanski, Badger.  
Absent: Wyman, Krick.  
Staff: C. Peterson, L. Peterson.  
Others: J. Rock, R. Reeves, N. Nemmers.

### MINUTES

The minutes of the April 3, 2017 regular meeting were presented and approved.

### COMMUNITY ED REPORT

- Pinhurst Clean-up with free hot dog lunch May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Men's 3 on 3 Basketball to start at Sunnyside.
- A review of the recent Lumber Log publication was presented.

### CITY STAFF REPORT

- A status update on 2017 Capital Projects was presented. Those covered include:
  - 2017 Riverfront Improvements.
  - Skatepark.
  - Veterans Park.
  - Pine Valley Bike Trail.
- A large group was addressed the Commission regarding adding a dog park to the Cloquet System. Benefits addressed included the following:
  - Duluth has two dog parks which are heavily used (170 patrons in one day).
  - Appeal for all ages and backgrounds.
  - Low costs/infrastructure needs with grant opportunities available.
  - Community gatherings places benefit people as much as the dogs.
    - Great place for socialization.
  - Commissioner Martinson stated that no plan was in place at this time but he felt dog parks add great value for minimal cost. He encouraged advocates to contact him outside of the meeting for more information.
  - Commissioner Krohn inquired about how to handle small vs large dogs and about any liability issues.
    - Advocates stated that many parks will separate small and large dogs but the off-leash neutral territory helps with any territory or aggression issues.
    - Duluth has noted very few issues but has a rule that the owner is responsible for any damage caused by their dog.
  - Commissioner Urbanski encouraged the group to report back to the Commission with planned estimate of space needs. He stated that finding a suitable location may be a challenge.

### COMMISSIONERS UPDATE

- Neil Nemmers and group of local pickle ball players addressed the Commission regarding a proposal to create designated courts at Wentworth Park.
  - A sketch plan was submitted showing 6 courts within the existing paved area.
  - The group has grown to approximately 25 members in the past year and plays thru the winter at the Armory.
  - Unsure if the existing pavement would require replacement; staff to review and provide feedback.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be held June 5, 2017, 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.

On motion duly carried by a unanimous yea vote of all members present, the Parks Commission adjourned.




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Secretary