

**PEQUOT LAKES PARK COMMISSION  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2012  
CITY HALL**

Members Present: Commissioners Jeff Bruch, Dena Doughty, and Chair Pete Clement, and Karen Ettesvold

Members Absent: Commissioner Faye Tweed

Also Present: Sandy Peine, City Clerk; Mike Loven, Public Works Supervisor; Council Member Cathy Malecha; and Mayor Adams

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Clement.

2. 12/8/11 Park Commission Minutes

**COMMISSIONER BRUCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE 12/8/2011 PARK COMMISSION MINUTES. COMMISSIONER ETTESVOLD SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

3. Park Commission Members

The Clerk noted that Pete Clement was appointed to serve on the Park Commission for another term.

4. Master Park Plan Discussion

The Clerk noted that Planning Commission would like the Park Commission to review the Trailside Park Plan and to offer input on the plan and to support the Planning Commission's philosophy about parks.

The Park Commission discussed the process it should follow to give input on the proposed plan. After reviewing the 16 items in the plan the Commission felt there were too many outstanding issues to deal with prior to giving feedback on each item listed in the plan.

The Commission questioned the ownership of the Trailside Park property and the authority the City would have to make improvements to the park. Mike Loven explained that much of the Park is owned by the DNR, MnDOT, and some is leased by the Chamber from the City. He noted that this does not give the City a lot of room to make improvements without some type of approval by other agencies or the Chamber. He noted that the City will be working with the DNR to develop a joint powers agreement

for the park in hopes that the City will be able to make improvements without requesting DNR or MnDOT approval for every improvement.

It was the consensus of the Park Commission that it supports the general concept of the Trailside Park improvements, but not necessarily all of the details. If this concept is approved at some time, the Park Commission would like the opportunity to have input on each item listed in the plan.

The Park Commission discussed parks in general and had several questions regarding a park plan for the City.

- The City needs a master park plan to include all parks and trails in the City. Is this part of the Comp Plan?
- What is the timing for implementation of the Trailside Park Plan? Is this a stand alone plan or is it actually part of the proposed Downtown Plan? When will the Downtown Plan be approved by Council?
- The Park Commission feels it is important for the City to have a mission statement regarding the City park system. Is this included in the Comprehensive Plan?

The Park Commission requested the following information to be provided at the next Park Commission meeting:

1. Answers to the above questions.
2. Add discussion of a mission statement to the next agenda.
3. Copy of the proposed comprehensive plan pertaining to parks and recreation
4. A recap of the park survey that was previously completed

Discussion was held regarding a skating rink. The Mayor suggested several locations. The Commission requested Mike to check with the City of Nisswa for costs to operate a skating rink.

#### 5. Park Lights

Discussion was held regarding the cost of electricity for the Christmas lights, the snowflakes on the power poles and the lighting of Trailside Park. Mike Loven noted that the cost for Christmas lights is about \$350 per month and the cost for the snowflakes is about \$220 per year. The lights are lit from dusk until dawn.

The Commission discussed options to save electrical costs. Following discussion it was the consensus of the Commission to keep the lights on this year until after the Antique Snowmobile Show.

**CHAIR CLEMENT MOVED THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE IN THE LIGHTING THIS YEAR, AND AFTER THE ANTIQUE SNOWMOBILE SHOW THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND SNOWFLAKES WILL BE TURNED OFF, AND FURTHER THAT FOR NEXT YEAR THE PARK COMMISSION PURCHASE TIMERS FOR THE LIGHTS AND SNOWFLAKES AND THAT THE LIGHTS WILL AND BE ON FROM DAWN UNTIL MIDNIGHT. COMMISSIONER BRUCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

6. Review Projects for 2012

It was the consensus of the Park Commission to put this on the February Agenda. Chair Clement suggested that a sample of the park brochure be given to the Park Commissioners to review in February.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, **COMMISSIONER ETTESVOLD MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER DOUGHTY SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Peine  
City Clerk