

City of Excelsior
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

106 Center Street, Excelsior, MN 55331 – Entrance located on Center Street
6:15 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sobiech called the September 9, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:18 P.M.

Present: Chair Sobiech, Vice Chair Wolfe, and Commissioners, Bolles, Schmidt, & Smith

Absent: Commissioner Anderson & Vogel

Also present: Parks Manager Quinn

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

a) September 9, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Agenda

Bolles moved, Wolfe seconded to approve the September 9, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting agenda with the addition of Halloween Programming in The Commons to New Business.

Motion carried 5/0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) August 19, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Wolfe moved, Bolles seconded to approve the August 19, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Motion carried 5/0.

4. CITIZEN REPORTS OR COMMENTS

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Flagpole in The Commons

The Commission discussed new flagpole options vs. refurbishing the old existing pole. The Commission discussed the need to get a quality pole replacement and the need to choose the best sized flag for the park and pole location. The Commission discussed how the old pole might be able to be donated or repurposed. The Commission decided to do more research on poles and potential funding sources and decided to discuss the flagpole again at the October meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Winter Programming in The Commons

Commissioner Smith recommended that we invite the sauna company who presented to the City Council in 2024 to the October Parks and Recreation Commission (PNR) meeting for a presentation. The Commission discussed other potential winter programming ideas such as dog parades, kite flying, an obstacle course, and team scavenger hunts. The Commission discussed how to potentially piggyback programming off other events such holiday choir caroling and snow sculptures.

b) Halloween Programming in The Commons

The Commission discussed potential Halloween programming such as a costume contest, an event involving music, or a pumpkin carving contest. The Commission decided to focus on winter programming for the time being.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

a) City Council and Park Project Updates – Information Only

Manager Quinn provided updates on the ballfield project, the mini master plan, as well as the playground project advisory committee.

b) August Financials

Nothing to note

c) Cinema in The Common

The Commission discussed that Cinema in The Commons is a good concept and that time should be spent during the winter deciding how to improve the events. The Commission discussed the desire to have Tommy's Tonka Trolley sell popcorn during the events. The Commission discussed the idea of connecting with the City of Shorewood to learn about how their movie events have gone. The Commission discussed how to better advertise the events.

D) Oak Hill Cemetery Improvements

Manager Quinn updated the PNR Commission on the formation of a Cemetery Committee which will involve city staff, PNR members, and Heritage Preservation Commission members. Manager Quinn discussed how the Cemetery Committee will review the RFP's submitted for the Oak Hill Cemetery historical designation and landscape treatment plan. Manager Quinn stated that Commissioner Anderson would like to volunteer and asked for an additional PNR Commissioner for the committee. The Commission discussed reaching out to Commissioner Vogel. Commissioners Wolfe and Schmidt both volunteered to be alternates if needed.

7. MISCELLANEOUS/COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

Smith moved, Bolles seconded to adjourn the September 9, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at 7:40PM. Motion carried 5/0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Quinn, Parks Manager