

City of Excelsior
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sobiech called the October 21, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:15 P.M.

Present: Chair Sobiech, Vice Chair Wolfe, and Commissioners, Anderson, & Bolles

Absent: Commissioners Schmidt & Smith

Also present: Council Member Vogel and Parks Manager Quinn

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) September 9, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Wolfe moved, Bolles seconded to approve the September 9, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Motion carried 4/0.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

a) October 21, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Agenda

Wolfe moved, Bolles seconded to approve the September 9, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting agenda with the addition of adding Christmas tree lighting discussion to New Business. Motion carried 4/0.

4. CITIZEN REPORTS OR COMMENTS

a) Resident John Baker of 614 Glencoe Rd discussed improvement ideas for Studer Park such as a paved walking loop, picnic tables, sand volleyball courts, bocce ball courts, play structures, landscape plantings around Studer Park sign, and a new Welcome to Excelsior sign.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Winter Programming in The Commons – Excelsior Saunas Presentation

Leif Kjorness and Ben Hecker from Excelsior Saunas presented on their saunas, services, revenue sharing, and the logistics of potentially having a temporary sauna in The Commons.

The Commission discussed sauna-goer parking, signage for the sauna, location options, and sauna staffing with Excelsior Saunas.

Vice Chair Wolfe motioned, and Commissioner Bolles seconded a proposal for City Council for Excelsior Saunas to have a movable and temporary sauna in The Commons near the bathhouse (unless

a better location is determined) and a cold plunge in the lake at the big beach. The proposed sauna timeline would be for one season starting in December 2025 and ending in late April 2026. Passes 4/0

b) Christmas Tree Lighting

The Commission discussed two different Christmas tree lighting ceremonies to happen in Excelsior this season. The Commission discussed the potential use of the Christmas in Excelsior tree after the event and the logistical challenges associated with reusing the tree.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Flagpole in The Commons

Chair Sobiech discussed that the Excelsior American Legion approved a donation of up to \$6,000 for a new flagpole in The Commons. The Commission discussed the 3 flagpole options and the differences in pricing for the installation costs between the 2 different contractors.

Commissioner Bolles motioned, and Commissioner Anderson seconded a proposal to City Council for the installation of Flagpole Option 1 or Flagpole Option 3 including anodization in The Commons. Passes 4/0

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

a) City Council and Park Project Updates – Information Only

Manager Quinn provided updates on the ballfield project, the mini master plan, the playground project advisory committee, and fall tree plantings.

b) September Financials

Nothing to note

C) Oak Hill Cemetery Improvements

Manager Quinn updated the PNR Commission on the Cemetery Committee which will involve city staff, PNR members, and Heritage Preservation Commission members. Manager Quinn discussed that Row 10 Historic Preservation Solutions will be the contractor for the Oak Hill Cemetery historical designation work and landscape treatment plan. The Commission discussed Commissioners Anderson and Schmidt being on the committee.

D) Studer Park Use Discussion - The Commission discussed how guidance is needed from City Council on the funding for Studer Park improvements and potential future use of the space.

E) Art Installation in The Commons – How to manage existing and future art in the park

Manager Quinn discussed the Commons Use Policy draft and how art is addressed in the policy. Council member Vogel clarified how art requests and timelines for art in the park are addressed in the policy draft.

8. MISCELLANEOUS/COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Wolfe moved, Bolles seconded to adjourn the October 21, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at 8:16PM. Motion carried 4/0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Quinn, Parks Manager