

City of Excelsior
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sobiech called the February 10, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:15 P.M.

Present: Chair Sobiech, Vice Chair Wolfe, and Commissioners, Anderson, Baker, Bolles, and Schmidt
Absent: None

Also present: Parks Manager Quinn, City Council Member Chrystal O'Hanlon, and Mayor Ringate (for swearing in John Baker)

(a) AGENDA APPROVAL

February 10, 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission Agenda

Schmidt moved, Wolfe seconded to approve the February 10, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting agenda.

Motion carried 6/0.

(b) Oath of new Commissioner John Baker

Mayor Ringate sworn in John Baker as a Parks and Recreation Commission Commissioner

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Bolles moved, Schmidt seconded to approve the December 9, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Motion carried 6/0.

3. CITIZEN REPORTS OR COMMENTS

None

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) 2026 Parks and Recreation Goals Discussion

The Parks and Recreation (PNR) Commission discussed goals for 2026 and came up with the following list to propose to council for consideration:

2026 Goals	Description
Arbor Day	Hold 2026 Arbor Day Event
Cinema in The Commons	Host one Cinema in The Commons event in late summer/early fall with event sponsor/s.
Sponsorship Guide	Create a sponsorship guide for Cinema in The Commons
Commons Use Policy	Complete Commons use Policy
Oak Hill Cemetery National Register & Treatment Plan	Cemetery Committee and Row 10 complete National Register nomination and landscape treatment plan (nomination due in May 2026)
Improve Park communications	Collaborate with Heritage Preservation Commission to recommend a bulletin board to be installed in The Commons
Christmas/Winter event	Host a Christmas/Winter event in The Commons

Baker moved, Bolles seconded to approve the agreed upon list of 2026 goals to be recommended for City Council Consideration. Motion carried 6/0.

b) Community Garden Discussion

Council Member O'Hanlon provided an overview of the Council work session when the Community Gardens were discussed.

The Commission discussed forming a Community Garden Workgroup to work on and improve issues related to the garden for the 2027 season. The Commission recommended that the workgroup members would consist of:

Anne Vogel – City Council Member
Tom Wolfe – Parks and Recreation Commission Vice Chair
Tim Amundsen – City Public Works Director
Kevin Quinn – City Parks and Natural Resources Manager
2 Community Garden plot renters

Baker moved, Schmidt seconded to recommend a Community Garden Workgroup for City Council Consideration. Motion carried 6/0.

The Commission discussed how to improve the management and maintenance of the Community Gardens for 2026. The PNR Commission discussed making changes to the Community Garden application including an acknowledgement of soil/site remediation, a separate optional tilling charge, and a deposit which would not be refunded if garden rules are not followed.

Schmidt moved, Baker seconded for City staff to work on adding a tilling change, a deposit, and an Acknowledgement of Remediation to the Community Gardens Application. Motion carried 6/0

6. Communications and Reports

- (a) City Council and Park Project Updates – Mini Master Plan and Playground, park maintenance projects - Information Only

Manager Quinn provided an update on the Mini Master Plan and Playground design firm selection process and forming a Project Advisory Committee. Manager Quinn updated the commission on current park projects such as dock maintenance and buckthorn removal.

- (b) Cinema in The Commons update - sponsorship guide creation

The Commission discussed creating a sponsorship guide for Cinema in The Commons. Commissioner Anderson expressed interest in helping with the sponsorship guide. The Commission discussed having city staff start to work on a draft for the guide.

- (c) Cemetery Committee update

Commissioner Schmidt, Commissioner Anderson, and Manager Quinn provided an update on the Oak Hill Cemetery Committee. The commission discussed that Row 10 will plan to conduct field work in March or April.

- (d) Hennepin County Youth Activities Grants – So-Hi Community Park grant update

Manager Quinn discussed the \$104,640 grant that was awarded from Hennepin County for a sport court project at So-Hi Community Park

- (e) Upcoming Events – *Klondike Dog Derby*, Luck of the Lake (3/21)

The Commission discussed upcoming events in the city.

- (f) Ballfield spring and in-season use plan

Manager Quinn discussed the spring and in-season use ballfield use plans and the importance of protecting the new sod this spring.

- (g) Park Communication Board

The Commission discussed proposing a park bulletin board be installed in The Commons to improve communication on park updates and events and to reduce sandwich board use. The Commission discussed possible locations of the board. The Commission discussed city staff having an initial conversation about the communication board and potential Heritage Preservation Commission involvement before proceeding further.

- (h) December Financials

No comments.

- (i) January Financials

No comments.

(j) 2026 Meeting Dates

The Commission agreed to move the March 10th meeting to March 11th.

7. Miscellaneous/Commissioner's Comments

The Commission discussed summer employment opportunities and operations with the city. Manager Quinn provided an update on grant applications that have been submitted and will be submitted for shoreline restoration.

8. Adjournment

Schmidt moved, Baker seconded to adjourn the February 10, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at 7:58PM. Motion carried 6/0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Quinn, Parks Manager