



Parks and Recreation Commission

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 6:15 PM
106 Center Street

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89826348603?pwd=EJcDQtZs4c3Nke6sTD4Oq8UVsp4Y9b.1>

Meeting chat link

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Meeting ID: 898 2634 8603

Passcode: 363150

One tap mobile

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Some items on this agenda are important enough to City Councilmembers that a quorum of the Council may be present to receive information leading to their future deliberations and eventual decision.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
 - A. Agenda Approval
2. Minutes of the Preceding Meeting(s)
 - A. Approve May 12, 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
3. Citizen Reports or Comments
4. Unfinished Business
5. New Business
 - A. Men's Garden Club Initial Proposal for Garden Statuary
 - B. Oak Woodland Educational Signage
6. Communications and Reports
 - A. City Council and Park Project Updates - Sponsorship Policy Update
 - B. Cinema in The Commons Update
 - i. August 15, 2026
 - ii. August 29, 2026

C. Park Message Board Update

D. Upcoming Events

- i. Rotary Concerts - June 17 and July 1
- ii. Mini-Master Plan and Playground Design Community Engagement - June 17th Rotary Concert
- iii. Art on The Lake - June 13 and June 14
- iv. Firecracker Race - July 4
- v. Fanfare for The Commons - July 7

E. May Financials

7. Miscellaneous/Commissioner's Comments

8. Adjournment

City of Excelsior
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

MINUTES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Wolfe called the May 12, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:15 P.M.

Present: Vice Chair Wolfe, and Commissioners, Baker, Bolles, Radziej, and Schmidt
Absent: Chair Sobiech, Commissioner Baker departed at approximately 7:05PM

Also present: Parks Manager Quinn

a. AGENDA APPROVAL

May 12, 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission Agenda

Vice Chair Wolfe discussed moving Communications and Reports ahead of Unfinished Business
Baker moved, Bolles seconded to approve the May 12, 2026, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting agenda with Vice Chair Wolfe's recommendation. Motion carried 5/0.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) April 14, 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Schmidt moved, Baker seconded to approve the March 14, 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Motion carried 5/0.

3. CITIZEN REPORTS OR COMMENTS

None

4. Communications and Reports

(a) City Council and Park Project Updates – Commons Use Policy

Manager Quinn provided an update on the Commons Use Policy and that it was recently approved by City Council.

(b) Park Message Board update

Manager Quinn discussed how the park message board was reviewed by the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) and the general feedback HPC provided. Manager Quinn discussed that the message board will be on an upcoming City Council agenda for consideration.

- (c) Upcoming Events and Volunteering – Memorial Day Parade (5/25), Concert in The Commons (5/27), Donation Yoga starting (5/26)

Vice Chair Wolfe discussed how the first Concert in The Commons is on June 3 not May 27 as on the agenda.

- (d) Cemetery Committee update

Manager Quinn updated the Commission on the historical consultant's progress with the Oak Hill Cemetery national registration application; with a current plan to submit the application in August for a November review.

- (e) Flagpole update

Manager Quinn updated the Commission on the flagpole installation in The Commons. The Commission discussed potential options for a flag raising ceremony.

- (f) April Financials

No discussion.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) Bolton and Menk Mini Master Plan and Playground Presentation

Britton Jones from Bolton and Menk presented on engagement results and design concepts for The Commons mini master plan and playground design project.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (a) Sponsorship Policy Draft Review

The Commission reviewed and discussed the sponsorship policy draft. The Commission discussed the initial initiative of Cinema in The Commons. The Commission discussed the challenges the Sponsorship Policy poses for sponsors. The Commission discussed a non-profit potentially managing Cinema in The Commons. The Commission discussed wanting clarity on the following: what was the original initiative for the PNR Commission with the Cinema in The Commons events? Is allowing a non-profit to manage the Cinema in The Commons fulfilling the original initiative? If PNR voted to pass off Cinema in The Commons to a non-profit to manage, would the city work with the organization to facilitate that process?

7. Miscellaneous/Commissioner's Comments

Manager Quinn discussed that the downtown hanging baskets and planters will be out and planted soon. The Commission discussed the future development plans for the corner of Water St and 3rd St.

8. Adjournment

Schmidt moved, Bolles seconded to adjourn the May 12, 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at 8:14PMPM. Motion carried 4/0.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Quinn, Parks Manager



Item: 5.A.

ITEM REPORT

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Kevin Quinn, Parks Manager

Meeting Date: June 9, 2026

Department/Office: Public Works

Item Name: Men's Garden Club Initial Proposal for Garden Statuary

Summary:

Gary Birnbaum from the Men's Garden Club contacted Chair Sobiech and Manager Quinn about proposing the installation of statuary in the spaces they maintain. Please see the message from Gary and view the following website links for the artists in consideration:

Keith Dorn: [Dorn's Designs | Facebook](#)

Sharon Miller: Thompson [Yardly Art](#)

Judd Nelson: [Decatur Sculpture Tour - Decatur Sculpture Tour](#)

"Dear Excelsior Parks and Recreation Commission:

I am writing as a member of the Excelsior Men's Garden Club and as Chair of the Statuary Committee of the Club. We wish to ask the Commission for permission to proceed with the placement of statuary in the gardens that the Club services.

As you are aware, the Club is responsible for maintaining multiple garden in Excelsior. The gardens are quite beautiful in the summer (excelsiormensgardenclub.com) but without their blossoms and blooms the gardens look desolate and abandoned in the Fall and Winter. To maintain their attractiveness and visitor-enticing appearance the Club voted to consider placing site-appropriate statuary in the gardens.

The Club would like to use local artists for the statuary, and two are known for their talents. They are Sharon Miller Thompson [Yardly Art](#) and Judd Nelson [Decatur Sculpture Tour - Decatur Sculpture Tour](#). Kindly allow me to suggest that you go to their websites and view some of their art. Their statuary is both kinetic and more usual static sculptures, and none would be considered without prior vetting by this Commission and the Excelsior City Council. Costs for the purchase of the sculptures would be through donations, commercial sponsorship, and perhaps by the City of Excelsior. There should be no maintenance costs though installation may require anchoring to prevent the sculptures from departing.

Thank you for agreeing to consider our request. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Gary Birnbaum

Excelsior Men's Garden Club"

Recommended Action:

Discuss the Men's Garden Club proposal.

Budget:

Attachments:

None



Item: 5.B.

ITEM REPORT

To: Parks and Recreation Commission
From: Kevin Quinn, Parks Manager
Meeting Date: June 9, 2026
Department/Office: Public Works
Item Name: Oak Woodland Educational Signage

Summary:

In the Summer of 2025, Excelsior City Council met in The Commons to view and learn about the new and maturing native plantings throughout the park. City Council members discussed the desire to provide more educational signage to tell the story of the large oak woodland planting located adjacent to the bathhouse and playground. The Uncommon Gardeners contacted city staff about helping to create signage for the Oak woodland. The Uncommon Gardeners would like the Parks and Recreation Commission to review the aesthetic of the signage from [Pulse Design Outdoor Interpretive Signs](#).

The sign would include details on specific plants and an informational background on the project.

Initial copy created by the Uncommon Gardeners to signify the importance of the Oak Woodland project is as follows:

“Oaks can live for centuries if properly cared for. However, trees growing in parks typically live much shorter lives than trees growing in natural settings. Often these trees are subjected to more frequent and severe stresses such as compacted soils, restricted root space, competition, heat island effects, and damage from construction. Planted beneath these oaks are native plants with deep root systems that require less water and little maintenance. They safeguard the root zone from compaction and help maintain an undisturbed soil area. Native plants also increase the biodiversity of the Commons and are attractive to pollinators and an important food source for birds.”

Recommended Action:

Discuss the proposed sign aesthetic and concept. Approve city staff and the Uncommon Gardeners to create a detailed sign.

Budget:

Attachments:

None

**City of Excelsior
Park Capital Improvement Fund
5/31/2026**

	<u>2026 Budget</u>	<u>APRIL Actual</u>	<u>2026 YTD Actual</u>	
PARK IMPROVEMENT FUND				
Park Improvements Revenue				
Interest Earnings			-	
County Grants	30,000		20,596	
				Donation for Baseball Field
Contributions and Donations	40,000	110,665	110,655	
Charitable Gambling - Designated Donations	22,000	4,425	20,715	
Park Dedication Fees				
Miscellaneous (Winter Storage)	30,662	7,470	22,410	
Transfers From Other Funds	-		-	
	<u>122,662</u>	<u>122,560</u>	<u>174,376</u>	
Expenditures				
Professional Services	10,000	968	968	
Engineering Fees	10,000	47,252	61,308	
Other Equipment	67,000	10,950	11,718	
Charitable Gambling Expenditures - C4C				
Improvements Other Than Bldgs	340,000	5,157	5,157	
Improvements - Playground Equip				
Improvements - Charitable Gambling				
Transfers To Other Funds	30,000			
	<u>457,000</u>	<u>64,327</u>	<u>79,150</u>	
Net Change in Fund Balances	<u>(334,338)</u>	<u>58,234</u>	<u>95,226</u>	
Cash Balances				
Cash Balance -05/31/2026			865,885	
Designated for Playground Equipment			3,926	
Committed for Commons Master Plan - Charitable Gambling Projects*			138,752	
Committed for Commons Master Plan			-	
Balance Available for Park Projects			<u>723,207</u>	
Fund Balance			<u>865,885</u>	