Resolution 2011-164

Resolution approving a five year lease agreement with the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation and amending professional services agreement with the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation removing bullet 3 in section 3 - Compensation

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board and the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation desire to have a close working relationship;

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board has office space available at Wirth Golf Club on the second floor commonly referred to as the Managers Apartment;

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board and the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation continue to work together to enhance cross country ski trail design, winter programming initiatives, development of partnerships with local and national ski organizations and refinement of snowmaking and grooming maintenance activities; and

Whereas, The City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation assists with the recruitment, scheduling and management of volunteer cross country ski ambassadors that ski and assist season and daily trail users including pass enforcement, trail map distribution and general park information;

RESOLVED, That the Commissioners of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board approve the five year Lease Agreement with the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation and amending the Professional Services agreement with the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation removing Bullet 3 in Section 3 - Compensation.

Adopted by the Park & Recreation Board
In formal meeting assembled on September 7, 2011

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John Erwin, President

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Karen Robinson, Secretary

Approved:

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R.T. Rybak, Mayor

TO: Finance and Administration Committee

FROM: Don Siggelkow, Assistant Superintendent for Development Services

DATE: August 17, 2011

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the five year Lease Agreement with the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation and amending the existing Professional Services agreement with the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation removing Bullet 3 in Section 3 - Compensation

Background

During the 2002 budget preparation, a proposal to eliminate the Wirth Winter Recreation program was discussed by the Board. This discussion brought forth a group of concerned citizens that held meetings at Wirth Chalet to discuss ways to revitalize the program. Included in those discussions were enhancing snow making capabilities at Wirth, trail development, better equipment to maintain the groomed trails and park redevelopment. The City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation (COLNSF) was instrumental in that planning process.

The Board allocated $300,000 of Regional Park dollars to fund the improvements and the Mayor supplemented those monies with an additional $250,000 in city bonding. SEH was retained to complete a master plan that proposed $3.7 million in improvements to the Wirth Winter program. The high cost of the improvements prohibited the project. Instead incremental upgrades were prioritized and planned with the available funds.

The first priority was shifting the management of the Wirth Winter program to Special Services. This was completed in 2003. Prior to 2003, Wirth Winter Program was operated by three divisions. Special Services provided concessions, cross country ski rentals and sales of trail passes, Recreation provided supervision and rentals for the tubing hill and Maintenance Operations handled snowmaking, trail maintenance, and trail grooming. The second priority was snow making. The snow making guns being used at Wirth were purchased in the 1950's. Connected to city water, these guns required extreme low temperatures to make snow, limiting the timing and amounts that could be made each season. Season Cross Country Ski pass sales are very dependent upon getting snow as early as possible. Each winter there becomes a race to get snow loops open first; first to open is the first to sell passes. Improvements were completed in 2005 and 2007. New high pressure water lines were run throughout the snowmaking loop and water lines were disconnected from the city water source and reconnected into the irrigation well used for golf operations. This provided higher pressure as well as lower temperature water to enhance snowmaking capabilities. New snow guns, booster pumps and a state of the art grooming machine (Piston Bully) were purchased. The tubing hill was moved to its current location on hole #10, a new tubing lift was purchased and installed and

snowboarding, complete with rentals and lesson programs, was introduced in the area of the old tubing hill.

COLNSF has been instrumental in this transformation and a strong advocate for winter recreation programming at Wirth. Over the past 8 years, COLNSF has contributed financially to the Wirth Winter Program, including fundraising campaigns to raise funds investing over $56,000 in trail improvements and expansion; $51,000 in purchasing additional snowmaking equipment including booster pumps; $135,000 in snowmaking infrastructure such as water mains and hydrants, electrical lines and high-voltage power stations; $20,000 in other improvements including staircases and emergency parking areas; and over $19,000 in the refurbishing of the Managers Apartment which had sat empty for the previous 20 years. All told, the Foundation has invested more than $281,000 in the Wirth Winter Program.

In addition, COLNSF has advised staff on the development of a 2.5 kilometer (1.5 mile) snowmaking loop with lights, snowmaking capabilities for tubing hill and snowboard park, development of a cross country skiing staging area, development of a five-kilometer homologated (certified) competition loop that can be used for national and international competition and placement of signage for the cross country trails, staging area and snowboarding hill.

COLNSF has also been instrumental in working with staff on grooming techniques and development and implementation of task management that has created one of Minnesota's premier cross country ski trail systems.

COLNSF runs a number of programs designed to engage Minneapolis youth. As the programs have become more popular, philanthropic groups have come forward to sponsor them. COLNSF provides scholarships to all interested youth. COLNSF programs include:

- KidSki - provides ski equipment and coaching at six local elementary schools, five in North Minneapolis and one in Northeast. Youth learn techniques of cross country skiing, including fitness and nutrition regimens. Youth attend the Minne-Loppet, where they all receive medals for their participation. 2,220 total youth have participated since the program began in 2004.
- Trips for Kids – City of Lakes - In partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, COLNSF runs the local chapter of this national mountain bike program. No fees are charged. Mountain bikes are provided to participants where coaches teach mountain biking techniques. 350 total youth have participated since the program began in 2009.
- Anwatin Ski Team – Year round cross country ski and mountain biking program for middle school youth. Serves primarily poor, disadvantaged youth – many have become award winners and are now passionate about outdoor activities. 115 total youth have participated since the program began in 2007.
- Farview Bike & Ski Team - In partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, COLNSF provides cross country ski and mountain bike equipment and coaching throughout the year. 45 total youth have participated since the program began in 2009.
- Loppet Adventure Camps - COLNSF works in partnership with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to provide week-long day-camps for youth ages 9 -13 in Wirth Park. Campers spend the day mountain biking, rollerskiing, paddling, playing capture-the-flag, gardening and preparing healthy meals and snacks in conjunction with the JD Rivers

Garden Project and nature talks in the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. 240 total youth have participated since the program began in 2009.

- Loppet Ski Camps - Similar to the Loppet Adventure Camps, only the winter version – campers spend their days learning cross country ski techniques. 60 total youth have participated since the program began in 2010.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has a professional services agreement with the COLNSF. That agreement is attached. It provides for payment of 25% of any net revenue increases from the previous year (season) in exchange for various professional services. It also provides for the use of the office space commonly referred to as the Managers Apartment on a yearly basis. The office space evolved from a simple seasonal work space as the COLNSF became more involved in the summer months with additional programming. Staff has recognized that this portion of the agreement should have been a lease agreement subject to Board approval when the use of the space became more permanent.

Wirth Winter Recreation program has evolved much over the years, but what stands out most is it went from a budget elimination item in 2002 to hosting the Junior Olympics during the 2010 - 2011 season. This is a direct result of the cooperation and partnership between the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve the five year lease agreement with the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation as attached and amend the professional services agreement with the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation removing Bullet 3 in Section 3 – Compensation.

Legal Counsel Review

Legal counsel has reviewed and approved the attached Lease Agreement. The professional services agreement is the MPRB's standard professional services agreement.

Attachments
Lease Agreement with Nordic Ski Foundation
Professional Services Agreement with Nordic Ski Foundation – track changes version

Prepared by: Tim Kuebelbeck, Director of Special Service Facilities
Approved by: Don Siggelkow, Assistant Superintendent for Development Services
Approved by: Jayne Miller, Superintendent