

Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 7th, 2016

Chairman Gingas called the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 6 pm.

Roll call:

Present: Anulli, Gingas, Haydamack, Marihugh, Wolschleger
Absent: Glaza, Hayman

Also in attendance: Mayor John Dupray, Tom Hepp, Council Liaison, Ken Butler, Council Liaison, Lee Miller, Parks & Recreation Director, Jeff Johns, Recreation Programmer.

Chairman Gingas announced that he would like to add two items to the agenda for this evenings meeting: bleachers for Festival Park and a digital sign for the City of New Baltimore.

Motion by Wolschleger, second by Haydamack to add the agenda item of new bleachers for Festival Park.

All voting yes.

Opposing: none

Motion carried.

Motion by Anulli, second by Marihugh to add the agenda item of a digital sign for the city.

All voting yes.

Opposing: none

Motion carried.

Public Discussion:

Ron Earle, from the Lions Club, approached the commission in regards to the purchasing of a new flag pole for the city. He brought up the idea of having a new flag pole that would be 160 ft. tall. The flag would be 30' x 60' in size. It would be the tallest flag pole in the state of Michigan. It would serve as a local landmark, a tourist attraction, as well as a patriotic symbol within the community. He discussed that a \$10,000 fund has been started as part of a fundraising effort to purchase this new flag pole. He has two quotes from different companies; one from Dallas, TX, and local company from Holly, MI. The estimated cost for the new flag pole is around \$65,000.

Member Marihugh asked what other types of fundraising would there be, with Earle responding that a GoFundMe page has been started, will reach out to other local community groups such as AMVETS, VFW Posts, Bay-Rama, and also setting out donation cans throughout the community.

Earle suggested that the new flag pole be installed where the current flag pole is at in Walter & Mary Burke Park. The thought behind that is so when driving down Washington St., it would be visible as you drive towards the lake. Co-Chair Haydamack asked about safety and the maintenance of the flag pole. It was discussed that there is a "fall zone" ordinance in place and that would have to be brought up to city council to be amended. There were also discussions of who would take over the maintenance of the new flag pole as it would have to be re-painted and new flags purchased. Haydamack was concerned about

Lee brought up that the department had been looking in to 4 or 5 row bleachers to be positioned directly behind the back stops. It would allow for a more simplistic design and less labor to set up the footings for where the bleachers will be placed. The final decision was to have 2 sets of bleachers per field.

Digital sign discussion:

Chairman Gingas wanted to discuss the possibility and advantages of the city purchasing a digital sign to be placed in front of the city's municipal office building. He has presented the idea to city council, the Downton Development Authority, and the city planning commission. He is looking for support from the recreation commission to move forward with the purchase of the sign.

Co-chair Haydamack brought up the fact that this would be a great way to help advertise Parks & Recreation programs and special events. It would also help reach those who have to travel through town to get to their final destinations.

Gingas talked about the cost savings it would have for the city. It would save money in the long run by saving labor costs of having to hang banners over Green St. We could also charge different businesses and organizations for advertising time on the digital sign.

Motion by Wolschleger, second by Haydamack for the city of New Baltimore to purchase a digital sign with the support of the Recreation Commission.

All voting yes.

Opposing: none

Motion carried.

Miscellaneous items:

Mayor John Dupray wanted to update the commission that the security cameras for the indoor pavilion at Walter & Mary Burke Park had been purchased and delivered. They are slated for installation within a week or so.

Co-Chair Haydamack was seeking an update on the Adopt-a-Park program. He had missed the meeting where items were discussed. Lee informed the commission that he was seeking pricing from Staples for folders where information could be handed out in a professional and organized manner. Lee also asked if the Adopt-a-Park program could be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Recreation Programmer Jeff Johns would like to take this time again to thank everyone on the commission, along with those who are in attendance, for everything you have taught me. You have all been extremely welcoming and inclusive to me with my time here in New Baltimore. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve the New Baltimore community and wish everyone the best as this department moves forward. Thank you for allowing me to work beside all of you and I hope to see all of you again in the future.

Motion by Haydamack, second by Wolschleger to adjourn at 7:20pm.

All voting yes.

Opposing: none

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Johns, Parks & Recreation Programmer