

Parks and Recreation Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2018

Chairman Gingas called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 6:04pm.

Roll Call:

Present: Gingas, Glaza, Weaver, Wolschleger

Absent: Anulli, Teets, Winter

Also in Attendance: Tim Novak, Director, Michele Vannerson, Assistant Director, Ken Butler, Council Liaison, Tom Hepp, Council Liaison, Mayor John Dupray, and several members of the community.

Public Discussion:

None

Motion by Weaver, second by Wolschleger to approve the meeting minutes from February 1, 2018.

All Voting Yes.

Opposing: None

Motion Carried.

Motion by Glaza, second by Wolschleger to approve the quote offered by Buck n' Dinks Concessions creating an agreement for baseball concessions and to send to City Council for final approval.

All Voting Yes.

Opposing: None

Motion Carried.

Motion by Weaver, second by Wolschleger to add to the agenda discussion on a grant opportunity through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association for shoreline restoration.

All Voting Yes.

Opposing: None

Motion Carried.

Director's Report

March 2018 Parks and Recreation Report – February 2018 Recreation Activity

- A new cleaning staff member has been hired by the Parks and Recreation Department. Vaida Bing, a New Baltimore resident and student at Macomb Community College began working with the department on February 21st. For the first time since May 2017 the Department is fully staffed.
- January 28 – February 3, 2018 – The Department's annual Super Bowl Predictions Quiz was available to be completed. There were 69 responses in total, and prizes were awarded as follows: First Place: Eric Earle, Second Place: Charlie Regan, Third Place: Donna Santi.
- February 1, 2018 – Registration opened for the majority of our spring programs including Easter Egg Hunt, Youth Baseball, Road Rally, new dog obedience classes, and trips and tours. Registrations are going very well and many of our new programs are filling up quickly.
- February 7 & 8, 2018 – The Parks and Recreation administration attended the annual MParks Conference and trade show. This year's conference was held at the Renaissance Center in Detroit. The staff attended several informative sessions that covered a wide range of topics. A conference summary from both the Director and Assistant Director have been included in the Commission Packet.
- February 9, 2018 – The parks and recreation department held its Daddy Daughter Dance at Cedar Glen Golf Course. 190 registered people braved the snowstorm to attend a fun evening and dinner and dancing. We've heard many compliments about the event. Christian Financial Credit Union sponsored the portrait photos which were taken as the attendees arrived.
- February 16, 2018 – A trip was taken to Greektown Casino in Detroit. 34 people attended the trip.
- February 19, 2018 – The New Baltimore recreation center was closed in observance of President's Day.
- The number of facility rentals of the pavilions and rec center is continuing to increase.

Motion by Weaver, second by Wolschleger to pursue the presented NOAA grant opportunity and recommend approval to City Council.

All Voting Yes.

Opposing: None

Motion Carried.

Motion by Weaver, second by Wolschleger to approve the recommended NOAA Water Station, with recommendation for it to be moved to a more secure location adjacent to the water plant.

All Voting Yes.

Opposing: None

Motion Carried.

Discussion

Baseball Concessions Agreement: An agreement for a flat rate rental of the Maynard ‘Red’ Aurand Memorial park concession stand and the use of Festival Park to provide concessions in the 2018 season was approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Following City Council approval, Buck n’ Dinks will be the sole provider of concessions at Maynard ‘Red’ Aurand Memorial park. Festival park would remain available for other food truck or food concession trailers to rent during the season. The business owner requested the contract be extended to two years with a one year opt out for both parties. The concessions agreement has been recommended to be sent to City Council for final approval.

Conference Feedback: Director Tim Novak and Assistant Director Michele Vannerson attended the annual mParks Conference in early February. Learning objectives and topics were shared with the Commission on what was learned. The opportunity is immeasurable to the amount of knowledge, experience, and networking gained. Documents from the conference could be shared with the Parks and Recreation Commission, as requested.

NOAA Grant Opportunity: The city administration has found an opportunity with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association to clean up the shorelines from Detroit through Port Huron. In New Baltimore, the grant would focus on the 800 feet of shoreline in Walter and Mary Burke Park and the 200 feet of shoreline in Ruedisale park. The grant works to establish a more natural shoreline using organic materials and native water species to keep the land intact. Harrison Township and Chesterfield Township had similar grant projects completed in years past. The rehabilitation would make the area more habitable for wildlife and plant species as well as more accessible to park goers. The City of New Baltimore would need to match 25% of grant dollars by 2020. The Parks and Recreation Commission did not want to miss out on the opportunity and chose to move forward with the grant process and send the recommendation to city council.

Park Signage and Wayfinding Signs: Director Tim Novak introduced a plan for wayfinding signs to parks within the city’s main roads and for labeling signs within the parks. The Commission agreed that a map was needed to showcase all of the city owned parks. A member of the Art on the Bay committee, Mike Wojciechowski, informed the Commission that their committee has been working on wayfinding signs for the community. Their idea was to use a

more artistic approach to bring a bit of color to New Baltimore. The Art on the Bay Committee has allocated fund gain through the festival weekend for park improvement opportunities. It was also discussed that the Historic Commission has been interested in creating wayfinding signs for several years. The Parks and Recreation Commission suggested that the three groups work together to create a sustainable solution to wayfinding signs to better the access to the community. Within this discussion, Director Tim Novak brought a preliminary idea for a connecting trail system surrounding the City of New Baltimore to be completed in the next three years. The financial aspect and the ADA compliance research has not yet been completed. More information will be provided to the Commission in future meetings.

NOAA Water Station: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association approached the Parks and Recreation Department about putting a water level measurement device in Walter and Mary Burke Park. The device would make our community a part of a larger initiative to record changing data within the Great Lakes. The Parks and Recreation Commission suggested moving the proposed location to a more secure area behind the water plant. Vandalism is a possible concern. If not possible to change the location, the Commission agreed to still move forward with the partnership as it shows we are open to a collaborative effort to study the waterfronts around Michigan.

Miscellaneous

Butler: Mr. Butler made the Commission aware that the New Baltimore Water Department would be installing larger water pipes that run along and connect to Ruedisale Street. Secondly, he expressed interested in looking at Pier Park in Grosse Pointe Farms where a wooden kayak launch is successfully run. Mr. Butler was interested in seeing the possibility of creating a launch similar in New Baltimore and asked for attendance to visit their park.

Motion by Weaver, second by Glaza to adjourn at 7:15pm.

All Voting Yes.

Opposing: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Vannerson

Assistant Director