

Parks and Recreation Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2018

Chairman Gingas called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 6:02pm.

Roll Call:

Present: Anulli, Gingas, Teets, Weaver, Winter, Wolschleger

Absent: Glaza

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

Public Discussion:

Bob Higgins asked the purpose and location choice for the red shed in the parking lot of the downtown Recreation Center, 50976 Washington Street, as it took up a usable parking space. The commission clarified that it is in place to house the barricades and supplies for the New Baltimore Farmers Market. The shed will be moved to the North side of the Recreation Center on the grass near the air conditioning unit. It will be moved when the grass is dry enough for proper footing.

Motion by Teets, second by Anulli to approve the meeting minutes from March 1, 2018.

All Voting Yes.

Opposing: None

Motion Carried.

## Director's Report

### April 2018 Parks and Recreation Report – March 2018 Recreation Activity

- March 3, 2018 – The New Baltimore Recreation Center was rented by the Anchor Bay Buccaneers Youth Football Program and used for on-site registrations.
- March 5, 2018 – Our spring programming started this week. Many of our new programs have been very successful, including our Circuit Training Class, Boot Camp, Cooking Classes, and Dog Obedience.
- March 16, 2018 – A Historical Church Tour was taken through the Detroit Historical Society. 20 People attended the trip, and we received a lot of positive feedback on this first-time trip.
- March 24, 2018 – The Parks & Recreation Department held its Easter Egg Hunt inside the recreation center. We had 3 different hunt times at Noon, 1:00pm, and 2:00pm. We had approximately 130 children participate, and approximately 260 people in attendance.
- March 30, 2018 – The New Baltimore Recreation Center was closed in observance of Good Friday.
- March 31, 2018 – Baseball registration ended. Our numbers are down again this year, which have been in consistent decline for some time. We currently have 4 Tee-Ball Teams, 3 Pitching Machine Teams, 1 Minors Team, no Majors Team, and 1 Senior Team. We are currently exploring ways to improve marketing and attract more participants to our program.
- Scheduling of the baseball fields and soccer fields at Festival Park and Maynard "Red" Auerand Memorial Park is taking place. While our baseball registration numbers are down, this has allowed us to open up our fields to many more renters. Groups that are scheduling times for the fields are the Michigan Brewers, Anchor Bay Angels, MBC Muckdogs, HIITZ Baseball, Michigan Bulldogs, Cardinal Mooney High School, Anchor Bay Buccaneers, and AYSO 195.
- There were 5 Recreation Center rentals this month, and 2 pavilion rentals.

## Discussion

*Wayfinding Signs:* The Art on the Bay Committee has voted to allocate funds to create artistically designed wayfinding signs throughout the city. Signs within the historic District must be approved by the Historic Commission. In an effort to keep the signs uniformed throughout the city, the design will be similar to the historic district design. The signs may include the activity icons for park amenities but would likely not have a map leading to other parks. There is an opportunity to plan the mapping and activity signs that would coordinate with the design of the wayfinding signs.

*Financial Report:* Reports were given to the commission for financial reports from the 2015, 2016, and 2017 fall seasons. Programs and revenue have been steadily increasing with each year. Including the expenses of leasing space for the current recreation department building, 35248 Cricklewood Blvd, the Parks and Recreation Department is still creating a revenue.

*Security Cameras:* The New Baltimore Parks and Recreation Department is looking into purchasing additional security cameras for Walter and Mary Burke Park. The current base unit has room to add additional cameras without upgrading the system. The commission supported this security upgrade and requested additional information after further research.

*Lifeguard Scheduling:* The current lifeguard schedule, with minimum wage increases, is a significant cost to the city for summer wages. Director Tim Novak introduced three options for possible lifeguard schedules; keep it as the current schedule, slightly decrease hours ending earlier, or greatly decreased hours ending much earlier. The commission also mentioned the season could be shortened or the weekdays shortened leaving long weekends to save on costs. The Director will put together some options of a compromised schedule without going so far as to greatly decrease lifeguarding hours to bring to the May meeting. Increased signage was agreed to be an important factor for reducing lifeguard hours.

*ADA Improvements:* The City of New Baltimore has been awarded, and approved for use by City Council, funding to increase Americans with Disability Act accommodations in Walter and Mary Burke Park. The commission was asked for ideas of ways to put these funds to good use. Ideas that were discussed included; widened sidewalks, increased number of sidewalks around perimeter, accessible swings, a sand mat for wheelchair accessibility, and a more accessible beach front. These ideas will be passed to the administration as a way to make the park more compliant. The funds can be used in any ADA improvement project but they do have a deadline to be spent on the selected project.

#### Miscellaneous

Weaver: Attended the historic church tour adult day trip, sharing the success of the trip. It was an informative and well-run tour, with a small group of 25 people.

Winter: Also attended the historic church tour adult day trip; she commended Kathy on her efforts as a trip leader.

Teets: Noted that Relay for Life is hosting a Road Rally in the area in the month before the Parks and Recreation Department Road Rally. Sara suggested tapping into the participants interested in Road Rallies.

Butler: The Anchor Bay School District has tentatively agreed to \$25/hour gymnasium rentals twice a week during the school year for the New Baltimore Parks and Recreation Department to program. The Anchor Bay School District has also agreed to honor a partnership where is the city purchases materials and funding for the project, the school's carpentry class will build a gazebo to be placed at Ruedisale Park. Ken also mentioned to the Commission that his inquiries about gaining ownership of the 'Gazebo Lot: Lion's Community Park'. It may be possible for

the city to gain ownership and control of the green space with the New Baltimore Lion's Club to continue to maintain the area. He will continue looking into the venture.

Novak: The Department is updating the Youth Baseball League jerseys to more prominently feature the team's sponsor. Although league player numbers are down across the region, the increased sponsorship numbers will help to cover costs. While lower league numbers decreased field use for the New Baltimore teams, it did allow for more fields to be rented by area organizations. The Anchor Bay Angels Softball teams did schedule a work day to get Festival Park ready for the season with donated infield dirt, sod cutting, and weeding of the fields. New Baltimore was awarded the Pitch, Hit, & Run Sectional competition this year which will bring 40-80 children from the area into Festival Park for the Saturday competition. Tim announced to the Commission that a lease extension agreement was met extending the lease at Bev's Dance Studio for two additional years beginning in September 2018. This lease agreement will be on the agenda at the next City Council meeting for final approval.

Motion by Teets, second by Anulli to adjourn at 7:12pm.

All Voting Yes.

Opposing: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Vannerson

Assistant Director