

Parks and Recreation Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2018

Co-Chairman Wolschleger called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 6:09pm.

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Gingas

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

Public Discussion:

None

Director's Report

June 2018 Parks and Recreation Report – May 2018 Recreation Activity

- Tuesday, May 1 – Triathlon registration increased to the Standard Rate
- Thursday, May 3 – Our May session of Simply Sports started. We had so many children on the waiting list that the instructor opened a second session of the class immediately after the first class, and both classes filled.
- Saturday, May 5 – Opening day activities and games for T-Ball were held along with Picture Day. The weather was great and everyone had a great time.
- Saturday, May 5 – AYSO Region 195 rented the Cricklewood Recreation Building for soccer registration.
- Friday, May 12 – In partnership with Ray Township and Lenox Township, the New Baltimore Parks and Recreation Department took an adult day trip to Holland, MI for the annual Tulip Festival. Although there were periods of rain it was reported that everyone enjoyed themselves. 18 people from the New Baltimore location went on the trip.

Motion by Weaver, second by Anulli to table the agenda item ‘Follow Up of Gazebo Partnership with Anchor Bay School District’ to the July 12, 2018 meeting.

All Voting Yes.

Opposing: None

Motion Carried.

Motion by Weaver, second by Winter to approve the proposed Bay-Rama Playscape Design for Festival Park, with consideration of shifting the location of the playscape away from residential dwellings and closer to a drainage area.

All Voting Yes.

Opposing: None

Motion Carried.

Motion by Weaver, second by Teets to check the liability of the city for playscape area maintenance, get a second opinion of the work needing to be done, and to send to City Council the final inspection report of playscapes at Walter and Mary Burke Park and Maynard ‘Red’ Aurand Memorial Park.

All Voting Yes.

Opposing: None

Motion Carried.

Discussion

Security Cameras: Director Tim Novak contacted two companies to look into upgrading the current security cameras system or replacing it. Both companies encouraged the replacement of the system as technology has advanced and a cloud base, rather than a hard drive based, system is standard practice. Director Novak stated that it may not be an immediate need, but one that can be built into the 2019 budget year. The commission suggested seeking RFP’s for a new system. They are interested in both the outlay and sustainment costs for new equipment.

Gazebo Project: The Anchor Bay School District high school shop class is willing to take on the project of building a gazebo to be placed in Ruedisale Point park, if all material fees are paid in full. Currently, a search for a donor is underway to complete the project within the upcoming school year. The size and exact location for the gazebo will be determined by the Parks and Recreation Department. The city is currently waiting on finalization of a natural shoreline restoration grant that would be included in the planning for an added gazebo. The commission requested an exact funding number needed to move forward with fulfilling the project.

Memorial Leaf Tree: Located in a display case on the concession stand at Maynard ‘Red’ Aurand Memorial Park, a metal memorial tree is located with a select number of names honored by donations. This tree has not been utilized in several year, so the Parks and Recreation Department asked the commission for suggestions on the best way to revitalize. Moving the

memorial tree, replacing the plexiglass cover, and promoting it as a way to donate to the city for a memorial gift were all discussed. More through will be given and the project will remain on the radar of the department.

Bay-Rama Playscape Presentation: Bay-Rama, Inc. gave a presentation requesting approval for installation of a playscape at Festival Park totaling \$87,682.60. The playground is designed for children ages 2-12 and can hold a capacity of up to 64 children at one time. The location proposed brought forth a few concerns with Tom Gunst, DPS Superintendent, who mentioned the close proximity to the residential homes. Shifting the location closer to the road in Festival Park would only displace one tree, would pull it far enough away from residents, and would move the playscape closer to a natural drainage area. The Bay-Rama presenters were agreeable to moving the location and having the installation company come out to reassess the new location. Upon the location shift, as agreed by the city, the commission approved the installation plans in Festival Park.

Certified Playground Safety Inspection Report: An inspection of playscapes should be held annually. Both the Walter and Mary Burke and Maynard 'Red' Aurand Memorial Park playscapes underwent an inspection, that has not been done since installation, and did not pass. The playscapes need to be brought up to code to adhere to the State of Michigan guidelines of playground safety. In short, the report listed the ground covering needs to be increased by several inches, infant swing seats put on a lower level bar, replace 'S' hooks, recoat rusted or wearing paint/epoxy coatings, and remove some elements all together. The commission recommended for the Parks and Recreation Department to get a second opinion on the liability and what is needed to be replaced bringing the structures back to code and what parts are under warranty by the playscape company. The commission also recommended bringing the issue to the city's insurance, the city engineer and eventually to City Council with a final report for action.

Miscellaneous

Winter: Asked the process for fundraising in the Walter and Mary Burke Park. It was clarified that fundraising groups must submit a special event application to be approved by City Council and all department heads. Winter suggested that there should be a limit to fundraisers held in the park as that is not the place to do it.

Teets: Shared excitement for the upcoming Bay-Rama Fish Fly Festival.

Glaza: Reported hearing several comments and complaints of the poor conditions of the public restroom facilities at Walter and Mary Burke Park. It was addressed that the bathrooms are cleaned every morning by Parks and Recreation Department cleaning staff, however in the nature of public restrooms often messes occur more frequently than they can be addressed. Glaza asked the locations for memorial benches in Walter and Mary Burke Park as she had a citizen ask for one placed near the flagpole. The Parks and Recreation Department has touched base with the particular family and let them know that available placements were by the landscaping wall at the top of the park. Glaza expressed concerns that the decision to sell the property where the current Recreation Center stands was never brought to Parks and Recreation Commission or Historic Commission. Clarifying, it was said that City Council approved putting the property up for sale by a 4-2 vote in favor. Glaza expressed she was not thrilled with the directions of decisions currently happening in the city. She stated citizens are kept to a standard of fixing historic buildings, often including a high price tag, and the city should be held to the same standard with the Recreation Center.

Motion by Winter, second by Teets to adjourn at 7:27pm.

All Voting Yes.

Opposing: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Vannerson

Assistant Director