

City of New Baltimore
Parks & Recreation Commission
Held at the New Baltimore City Hall
Regular Meeting – March 3, 2022
6:00 PM

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

Moment of Silence to Honor Michele Anulli

Public Discussion: This time is set aside for public comments for anyone who wishes to address the Commission. All comments must be addressed to the Chair.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 6, 2022 Regular Meeting

Approval of Parks & Recreation Director's Monthly Report – February 2022

Approval of Agenda

- A. Old Business: None
- B. New Business:
 - 1. Michele Anulli Memorial Tree Application
 - 2. Dog Park Concept Discussion
 - 3. Daddy Daughter Dance Recap
 - 4. Ruedisale Point Park Shoreline Restoration Update
 - 5. Burke Park Playscape Fundraising Update

Miscellaneous Items

Next meeting: Thursday, April 7 at 6:00pm at City Hall.

Adjournment

Parks and Recreation Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2022

Chair Wolschleger called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 6:00pm

Roll Call:

Present: Eric Haydamack, Larry Gingas Joe Glinski, Amber Laske, Dawn Wolschleger and Director Tim Novak
Absent: Michelle Anulli, Mike Zoli
Also in Attendance: Mayor Thomas Semaan, City Councilperson Laura Szymanski

Public Forum: 2022 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Review

Public Discussion:

Commissioner Haydamack stated he thought there were some good adds on the final revision and likes the conceptual design at Festival Park. Commissioner Gingas and Laske stated the department did a great job on the project. Director Novak updated everyone on the timeline that the Master Plan will be sent for approval on January 24th and would then be sent to the state pending approval. Councilperson Szymanski stated she found the demographics on increasing age is interesting, to which Novak said that is something the department will keep an eye on and continue to add programming for people ages 55+.

Director's Report: January 2022

December 2021 Recreation Activity Report

- December 8, 2021 – The administration met with the DDA, Macomb County Planning & Economic Development, and SEMCOG to discuss grant funding opportunities through the American Rescue Plan.
- December 10, 2021 – The director attended a webinar on DNR grant opportunities.
- December 12, 2021 – The department held the 2021 Jingle Bell Run in downtown New Baltimore. We had 805 participants. The weather was great and everyone had a wonderful time.
- December 15, 2021 – The department met with the Library for the monthly co-programming meeting.
- December 16, 2021 – The director attended a Great Lakes Cities webinar along with the Mayor regarding grant funding opportunities available to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.
- December 12, 2021 – The department attended the monthly NERPA regional parks meeting.
- December 16, 2021 – The department met with Christian Financial Credit Union to discuss 2022 sponsorship opportunities. They agreed to continue their support of the School's Out Camp Out. They will let us know of any other possible sponsorship opportunities.
- December 17, 2021 – The department met with the organizers of the Bay Area Sports Show (formerly Bay Area Fishing Tournament) to discuss planning the 2022 event.
- December 22, 2021 – The department held the 2021 City Holiday party at the recreation center gymnasium.
- December 23-24 – The department offices were closed in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas holidays.
- December 27-30, 2021 – The department held its winter day camp. We had a total of 32 participants over the 4 days.
- December 30-31, 2021 – The department offices will be closed in observance of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Agenda Items:

Motion by Haydamack, second by Laske to approve the Meeting Minutes from the December 2021 meeting.
All Voting Yes. Opposing: None Motion Carried.

Motion by Haydamack, second by Gingas to approve the Director's Report for January 2022.
All Voting Yes. Opposing: None Motion Carried.

Motion by Haydamack, second by Laske to approve the Meeting Agenda for January 2022.
All Voting Yes. Opposing: None Motion Carried.

Discussion:

Old Business:

Jingle Bell Run Recap

Director Novak informed the commission that the 2021 Jingle Bell Run was an overall success, with 804 participants coming out. Novak was waiting on final bills to come in, but estimates the department generated approximately \$12,000 -\$14,000 for the park improvement fund. Commissioner Glinski asked Novak how the year compared to years past, which Novak responded that usually there are 900-1200 attendees and the department generated \$18,000 in 2019 – the best year on record. Novak felt the event was on par to years past, especially considering circumstances with COVID-19. Commissioner Haydamack echoed those thoughts that some normal participants may be more cautious and that those numbers generated were very impressive. Chair Wolschleger stated she thought the registration was the best she had seen and operated very smoothly. Mayor Semaan asked how many volunteers they had to which Novak responded that normally they have upwards of 30, but this year they only had a small handful and the departments part-time staff working the event.

DDA Liaison Report

Both Commissioner Haydamack and Commissioner Laske provided the monthly DDA Liaison report to the commission. They stated that the DDA presented updated concepts of the docks that offered increased shoreline protection, as well as preliminary ideas regarding a bathhouse. Mayor Semaan followed up by saying that the dock committee and city officials met with the engineer firm and planned on bringing forward an updated conceptual design sometime soon. Mayor Semaan is confident that the plan will come to life. He stated that the design, concepts and permits should be completed in the next month and the DDA was also looking at adding a non-motorized boat launch. The commission then selected Commissioner Glinski to represent the commission at the next DDA meeting.

New Business:

Maynard 'Red' Aurand Memorial Park Rules, Regulations and Policies Review

Director Novak stated by saying he removed the no skates or bikes rules because of the stake park as those rules naturally conflict. Additionally, with the large landscape of the park, the walking path and the low usage, it doesn't present any danger to allow those recreational activities while in the park. Commissioner Haydamack echoed those thoughts, saying these park rules are flexible due to size. Other than that, all other rules remain as is.

Motion by Haydamack, second by Gingas to approve the Maynard 'Red' Aurand Park Rules as presented

All Voting Yes.

Opposing: None

Motion Carried.

2021 Holiday Lights Contest Winners

Director Novak announced that the Lee Family won first place, the Bury family won second place and the Vandermeer family won third place in the lighting contest. Commissioner Haydamack said it was great to see increased participation this year and is now bringing in out of town people to see the lights. Commissioner Glinski suggested a hot chocolate walk next year to which Novak said it was a great idea the department will implement. Novak said the department appreciated the community buy in this year and look forward to an even bigger contest next year.

Miscellaneous:

Commissioner Haydamack asked if the account information had been setup yet for the Burke Park playscape crowdsourcing campaign and Novak said they had a meeting with the MEDC the week after.

Commissioner Haydamack additionally brought up potential bathrooms at Festival Park and how it is a great need for the department. With all the work into the Master Plan, Haydamack thought it would be a great opportunity to search out grants to begin engineering and bring in utilities.

Chair Wolschleger brought up a concern at Festival Park as there is continuous damage being done to the playscape. Mayor Semaan said immediately he will talk to the Chief of Police to increase patrols in the park and administration will begin seeking out long term solutions to create permanent infrastructure to protect the playscape. Chair Wolschleger

Motion by Laske, second by Glinski to adjourn the meeting at 6:57pm.

All Voting Yes.

Opposing: None

Motion Carried.

Submitted by: Adam Abraham, Assistant Director

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 28, 2022

Director's Report

February 2022 Recreation Activity Report

- February 1, 2022 – The department met with the committee for planning the 2022 Bay Area Sports Show.
- February 9, 2022 – The department met with the MacDonald public library for our monthly co-programming meeting.
- February 12, 2022 – The department held the 2022 Daddy Daughter Dance at Zuccaro Banquet Center. We had over 400 participants and everything went well. We are anticipating returning to Zuccaro next year over Cedar Glen.
- February 14, 2022 – The Bay-Rama organization presented the department with a check for \$10,000 to go toward the new playscape at Burke Park at the City Council meeting. Thank you to Bay-Rama!
- February 16, 2022 – The city administration met with a city resident who was eager to discuss options for the fundraising and construction of a dog park in the city.
- February 17, 2022 – The city administration met with the Clinton River Watershed Council to discuss the use of a \$5,000 mini grant for stormwater management.
- February 22, 2022 – The city administration met with the Technical Advisory Committee for the Ruedisale Point Park Shoreline Restoration Project.
- February 24, 2022 – The department attended the February NERPA meeting at Shelby Township Parks & Recreation.