

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Park & Recreation Commission
Council Chambers, City Hall
January 24, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chairperson Ladd.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary, Marty Stinson.

Members Present: Commissioners Terri Brown, Jerry Hebekeuser, Chairperson Marsha Ladd

Members Absent: Commissioner Sherri Chavora (was originally omitted when minutes were first approved on February 28, 2011; corrected at the March 28, 2011 meeting).
Carolyn Lawrence – arrived 6:07 p.m.

Others Present: Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development Adam Zettel; Burton Fox, Chairman of the Owosso Planning Commission; Tracey and Jeff Peltier, TEaM Design, 723 Grand Avenue; Councilmember Gary Martenis; Bob Flynn.

Approve Agenda for January 24, 2011:

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Commissioner Brown, and supported by Commissioner Hebekeuser.

Ayes: all, motion carried

Approve Minutes from January 10, 2011 meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Brown, and supported by Commissioner Hebekeuser.

Ayes: all, motion carried

Public Comments:

Bob Flynn asked that the Hopkins Lake Trail be on the agenda for the next Parks & Recreation meeting. The trail is used for snowshoeing, walking, biking and hiking. He wants to give an overview about the trail, and ask permission to trim the brush back. He has done this for the last four years.

6:07 p.m. Carolyn Lawrence arrived.

Tracey Peltier, TEaM Design, 723 Grand Avenue, reported that the Bark Park is being used even in the very cold weather. People have been very good about cleaning up after their dogs.

Councilmember Gary Martenis reported there is a Holman Pool subcommittee meeting on February 10 at 7 p.m. They are developing a short history of the pool and working on different uses and any other possible ideas. Burton Fox will contact other governmental units to see what they may have done. The group will also contact schools, the hospital, etc. After a few meetings, they will report back to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council.

Chairman Ladd commented that the Holman Sled Hill is getting lots of use. There is a concern that some are going right through the trees and into the street.

Councilmember Martenis said that this summer we can add some dirt to prevent that from happening.

Communications:

1. Staff memorandum
2. January 10, 2011 minutes
3. Greenhouse proposal
4. Playscape designs (forthcoming)

Business:

1) Playscape Designs:

Director of Community Development and Assistant City Manager, Adam Zettel, stated that he sent the list of playscape desirables to Dave Tooley at Miracle of Michigan & Indiana. He still did not have any designs yet, but they are working on it.

Discussion about the Spaghetti Dinner with possible March dates for that event.

Chairperson Ladd stated the grant information looked great from Sarah Warren-Riley for the maintenance plan. Mr. Zettel will follow-up on those grant applications.

Commissioner Brown commented there are three grants available with an extremely brief, one page application due by February 11. Then there will a five minute presentation at a later date. Commissioner Chavora may make a presentation. These grants may possibly be used for a gazebo and the basketball courts, etc. Mr. Zettel also talked about the Kiwanis potential; and welcomes Commissioner Chavora's input and assistance.

2) Greenhouse Proposal

Jeff and Tracey Peltier, 723 Grand Avenue are seeking a site approval for the Owosso Community Garden at Collamer Park off S. M-52. The primary ideas are 17 raised beds for the community and for educational gardens. They have applied for a grant in cooperation with Baker College for the greenhouse. They are also trying to pull in help from local nurseries. Home Depot may use this for a Build-A-Day project. There is a group of ten or eleven people called "Garden Guides" who are interested in heading the project. They will also be making contact with the school system.

Commissioner Lawrence commented that she has spoken with people at the Collamer Park who don't want Baker College to take over the Park. Maybe the garden could be located where the stone house used to be. She suggests leaving the park open. Don't change the park too much. Mrs. Peltier said they would need a sunny location – that's important.

Commissioner Brown asked, how do you care for raised beds? Ms. Peltier stated that several people are taking a 5 – 6 week course in Lansing. Commissioner Brown asked about working on the garden while waiting for the grant. What would that be? Mrs. Peltier commented that the grant is for the greenhouse. We could still work on the Community Garden.

Chairman Ladd asked if they had thought about the geese. What will they do to the soil? Mr. Peltier said that would raise the acidity.

Chairman Ladd said Bridget Seelman checked into vandalism when she was working on the gardens at the Middle School. Mrs. Peltier said they had been checking into that subject also. There is a lot of information available to try to lessen the vandalism.

Chairman Ladd asked if they were thinking of this spring. Mrs. Peltier replied, yes. Mr. Zettel said the city would have to support it. Chairman Ladd said she wants to look around the lake. Commissioner Brown asked what the timeline is. Mrs. Peltier said she wants it ready to plant in the spring. Chairman Ladd wants to talk to some other people. Mr. Zettel said there are a lot contingencies. He is hesitant to move on it tonight. Chairman Ladd stated, possibly the next agenda.

Mr. Zettel has some concerns about people ingesting unhealthy things. They would need to check on the goose waste or the house foundation with possible fuel oil spill. Water sources would need to be checked. We need to protect the morel interest for the future. Staff will need to look at this.

Mrs. Peltier said she would like to have questions ahead of time for the next meeting so that she can have answers ready rather than having to come back again.

Councilmember Martenis was involved with the community gardens behind the Middle School years ago. It was successful with very little vandalism.

About renting a space, Mrs. Peltier said there would be a minimal fee. The money would be used to maintain the gardens. Some beds would be kept open for schools or soup kitchens. Mr. Peltier said that don't want to make it an exclusive club.

Mrs. Peltier said that in Ann Arbor their's was very successful with very little vandalism and theft. Their biggest problem was people loosing interest and leaving the project part way through the summer.

Bob Flynn said the trails had some vandalism when the trail began, but as more people used it, there were fewer problems. Mrs. Peltier said there is a lot of interest in people raising their own food.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Hebekeuser and was supported by Commissioner Brown. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Ayes: all, motion carried

Ms. Marty Stinson
Recording Secretary