

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall**  
**May 23, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chairperson Ladd.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Marty Stinson.

**Members Present:** Commissioners Sherri Chavora, Jerry Hebekeuser, Chairperson Marsha Ladd.

**Members Absent:** Commissioner Terri Brown, vacancy.

**Others Present:** Adam Zettel, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development, future Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jeff Selbig, and Councilmember Martenis.

**Approve Agenda for May 23, 2011:**

**A motion to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of a discussion of the map of Bentley Park and the possible locations of the playscape areas in phases, by Commissioner Hebekeuser and supported by Commissioner Chavora.**

**Ayes: all, motion carried**

**Approve Minutes from April 25, 2011 meeting:**

**A motion to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2011 meeting was made by Commissioner Chavora and supported by Commissioner Hebekeuser.**

**Ayes: all, motion carried**

**Public / Board Comments:**

Councilmember Martenis noted that he did not attend the last meeting, but he is always available to the board. They are doing a great job and he didn't feel they needed a watchdog. The board invited him to attend the meetings often.

**Communications:**

1. Staff memorandum
2. April 25, 2011 minutes
3. Bentley site map (submitted to the MDNRE for the Passport Grant)

**Business:**

1. Trails

Adam Zettel, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development, began the discussion about the \$2M grant from Fred Meijer for the railway corridor. The main question was what are we going to do? Discussion continued that it didn't look like it was going to happen because the rail spur is reoccupied and the railroad isn't interested in making a trail next to the tracks; should the group open up the Park Plan for trail ways and way finding?

**Motion by Commissioner Hebekeuser, supported by Commissioner Chavora to re-open the Park Plan to add the component of the rail trails, and update the whole systems of Bentley and Collamer Parks.**

**Ayes: all, motion carried**

- 2. Curwood Festival activities**
- 3. Fundraising**

Commissioner Chavora has a booth/tent for the Curwood Festival on Thursday, 5 – 8 p.m., Friday, 5 – 8 p.m. and on Saturday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. This is an information booth and she will need volunteers to staff it. There will also be a slide to be filled with donations for the Bentley Park playscape. There will be pledge cards, some engraved brick samples, trail maps, Michigan-wide trails and any other information available for handouts. July is “Rock Your Park” month.

Chairperson Ladd commented that Washington School is having a Walk-A-Thon to raise money for Bentley Park on Friday, June 3. Commissioner Chavora will meet them, thank them and show them the park plans.

Commissioner Chavora continued that the Kiwanis will have a Free Family Day on June 18. Any funds they raise will go to the park.

**4. Holman Pool and Rudy DeMuth updates**

Councilmember Martenis participated with the farewell ceremony for Holman Pool. The Department of Public Works has already started to dig it out. They will be saving memorabilia for a future fundraiser.

Another future fundraiser idea came from Mr. Martenis' Schwan man. He can sell frozen treats for \$1 at an event and then give the Parks and Recreation Commission back \$.50 for each one sold.

Mr. Martenis also noted that Holman Pool area needs a couple signs to keep people from driving up on the hill with a notice about a serious fine for violators. The hill also needs dirt instead of straw to keep the kids from sliding into the parking lot. The hill top is too small. It needs to be flattened out and more room added. Once the pool is out and the sand is installed, maybe we can get an ice skating rink there. Chairperson Ladd asked about liability issues. Mr. Martenis also stated we need to maintain the fencing.

Commissioner Hebekeuser stated the BMX Park will start adding dirt by the water treatment plant. Then it will be finished. He also commented that plans are moving forward for the concession stand at the Rudy DeMuth ball field. It may be completed by fall.

Chairperson Ladd stated that we need some signs about motorized vehicles.

**Motion by Commissioner Hebekeuser, supported by Commissioner Chavora to install appropriate signs with city staff deciding the wordage.**

**Ayes: all, motion carried**

Councilmember Martenis commented that there is some erosion and damage at the bottom of the hill. It needs to be seeded. He would like Mark asked to work on the top also.

**Motion by Commissioner Chavora, supported by Commissioner Hebekeuser to repair the erosion at the bottom of the hill; seed the hill; ask Mark Sedlak to work on the top to flatten and enlarge it; to build a berm with dirt in place of the straw berm currently in place at the bottom of the hill.**

**Ayes: all, motion carried**

**Motion by Commissioner Hebekeuser, supported by Commissioner Chavora to recommend a temporary skating rink in place of the pool.**

**Ayes: all, motion carried**

**Public Comments:**

There were no public comments.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Chairperson Ladd stated her appreciation for Councilmember Martenis' work in the attempt to keep the pool open. The information is available to anyone.

**Adjournment:**

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Hebekeuser and was supported by Commissioner Chavora. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.**

**Ayes: all, motion carried**

Marty Stinson  
Recording Secretary