

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall**  
**May 29, 2012 – 6 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairman Hebekeuser.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Marty Stinson.

**Members Present:** Chairman Jerry Hebekeuser, Vice-Chairperson Marsha Ladd, Commissioners Sherri Chavora, Michael Espich, and Jeff Selbig (arrived 6:03 p.m.).

**Members Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** Adam Zettel, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development; Mayor Ben Frederick; Mr. Robert Flynn, 527 Pine Street; and Mr. Dan Vargas, candidate for Mr. Owosso.

**Approve Agenda for May 29, 2012:**

**A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Commissioner Ladd and supported by Commissioner Espich.**

**Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

**Approve Minutes from April 23, 2012 meeting:**

**A motion to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2012 meeting was made by Commissioner Chavora and supported by Commissioner Ladd.**

**Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

**Public Comments:**

Mr. Robert Flynn, 527 Pine Street, for the last four and a half years has been quietly taking care of the trails at Hopkins Lake. He was wondering if the city couldn't mow the trails.

6:03 p.m. Commissioner Selbig arrived.

Mr. Flynn said it's a large job and hard to get people to help. Maybe twice in the summer time it could be mowed. He noted that a young man was given approval to sign the trail and he will be meeting with him on Friday. Mr. Flynn stated there are also two dangerous trees that need attention. Mr. Zettel would like to schedule a meeting with Mr. Flynn; Mark Sedlak, the Director of Public Works; and himself.

**Communications:**

1. Staff memorandum
2. April 23, 2012 minutes
3. Park Rules for 2012

**Business:**

**1. Bentley Park Playscape Community Build – Staff Update & Volunteer Information**

Adam Zettel, stated that it was going to take a lot more volunteers than originally instructed. We'll need about 40 people per day on Thursday and Friday and possibly all day on Saturday. We have good professionals and contractors lined up. He has the supplies ready to go. The Pre-Assembly will be on the June 11 from 5-7 at the Edge. Ten kids will be there. Marty Stinson has the sign-up sheet and waivers.

Mark Sedlak has the high equipment for the tower. School groups are allowed if they are supervised by a coach, etc. People need to call for four hour blocks.

Chairman Hebekeuser said that Owosso High School and about four churches were going to be involved. We need to contact Dallas Lintner and JoEllen Smith.

Mr. Zettel continued that there would be free food in the morning and at lunch with plenty of water. There will be parking at the Rugged Liner parking lot. There is no parking at the Bentley Park parking lot as that will be used for supply storage and equipment. There will eventually be brick pathways and a dedication later on. It will be easier to sell the bricks after people can see where they are going to be installed.

There is some bad news according to Mr. Zettel. The Bentley Park renovation bids for the tennis courts, basketball courts and the bathrooms were very high. There were only two bids; neither was local. We did two cycles of bidding. However, we have three years to spend the money.

One option is to do more fundraising. Mr. Zettel questioned why the bids were so high. They advertised state-wide and on Facebook. We may have to change the request. We need to think about further options, and maybe wait another year. Chairman Hebekeuser suggested signage that said the bathrooms were under construction, but still useable.

Mr. Zettel said we still can redo the gazebo; paint some areas to cover the graffiti and put out a sign. The basketball and tennis courts and bathrooms are bid items. The city can do some of their portion of the grant activities this year.

Commissioner Chavora would rather do the best we can when it's possible. It's currently functional and she would like to wait. Mr. Zettel said it was a council decision. He will check with Rowe Engineering to see what else can be considered. Everything the city can do, we opt to do this summer.

Commissioner Chavora asked about the current playscape. Mr. Zettel said it will be removed and if the equipment is still useable, it will be relocated.

## **2. Disc Golf and Splash Pad Updates**

### **SPLASH PAD**

Mike Espich noted there will be a meeting on June 11 at city hall about the splash pad. June 9 will be a fundraiser. Tom Manke is doing a fundraiser at his place of business. We need to find out where we are financially and make recommendations to the Council. We may need a permit from the state. Mr. Zettel noted that the target cost could be \$10,000; could be more.

Mr. Dan Vargas is running for Mr. Owosso and raising funds for the splash pad. He asked if there was any way to have a security camera on the splash pad. Chairman Hebekeuser said maybe. We're hoping with the community build that citizens may be invested and more vigilant about the area. The police may patrol the area more. We hope to install the splash pad this summer. Commissioner Selbig added as soon as possible without compromising quality.

### **DISC GOLF**

Commissioner Selbig said a church group is looking into doing a clean-up. It's pretty grown over and things are hidden. Brush removal has been ongoing.

### **3. Park Rules for 2012.**

Mr. Zettel asked the board members to take a look at what was presented and to further review the suggestions.

#### **Public Comments / Board Comments**

Mr. Bob Flynn stated the Michigan Trailways and Greenways Association will be having a group coming from Ionia to Owosso one year from this July. They previously had up to 1,000 people. We need to get ready and capture them downtown rather than up by the high school.

#### **Adjournment:**

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

**Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

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Adam Zettel, Secretary