

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall**  
**August 22, 2011 – 6 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Ladd.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Marty Stinson.

**Members Present:** Commissioners Terri Brown, Sherri Chavora, Jerry Hebekeuser, Jeff Selbig, and Chairperson Marsha Ladd.

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Adam Zettel, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development, and audience members.

**Approve Agenda for August 22, 2011:**

**A motion to approve the agenda as presented by Commissioner Chavora and supported by Commissioner Brown.**

**Ayes: all, motion carried**

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

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

**Ayes: all, motion carried**

**Public Comments:**

Terry McLeod, 1749 S. Durand Rd, Lennon, is the Shiawassee County representative to the Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority and an ex-officio member of the Friends of the Fred Meyer CIS (Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee) Trail. She shared that this trail is 125 miles long and is the fifth longest trail in the United States. In 2012 the plan is to pave three to four miles in small villages; and the second phase will be to limestone the connections. She is a runner and hopes the Parks and Recreation Plan will include a trailhead in Owosso. People run and then at a trailhead they are ready to eat and walk around and relax their muscles. They need amenities in town to encourage runners to visit this area.

Elwin Smith, 916 Division Street requested boating docks / boat launches at Hopkins Lake. There were some on the east side where Palmer Street is, maybe thirty years ago.

David Green, 604 Ryan Street, would like another fishing float/dock at Hopkins Lake.

**Communications:**

1. Staff memorandum
2. July 25, 2011 minutes
3. Updated pages from the Owosso Park Plan
4. Financial update
5. Disc golf information

**Business:**

1. Park Plan Update – Public Hearing

Mr. Adam Zettel, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development, opened the public

hearing by stating this was a two-part process. First the board is looking for input from the public. Then a time to deliberate and prepare a draft and amendments.

Gary Burk, President of the Friends of Shiawassee River, stated the river is like a park and should be included in the park planning. It connects the city and the county parks. They are also looking to bring in the Rails to Trails; and the river should be incorporated in the parks plan. The plan could include:

- ✓ Kayak launch sites in and out of town
- ✓ A walleye fishery
- ✓ The city property at the water treatment plant could open more area to public access.
- ✓ Low head dams could be upgraded such as the one by the M-21 bridge in town, and make it more natural looking.
- ✓ Upgrade the riverwalk to Corunna and provide better access areas.
- ✓ Improve river esthetics by ridding it of invasive plant species and planting more natural species.
- ✓ Relocate the bus garage and open the area for a park use.
- ✓ Maybe look to Cass Street for a trailhead.

His group hopes to be a partner with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Frederick Dibeau suggested paving the parking lot at the Bennett Field. It has heavy erosion and several deep drops.

City Councilmember Joni Forster spoke about the Parks and Recreation Commission needing a comprehensive plan and that each park needs an individual evaluation. She recommends more community involvement and better notification of public meetings. She advised to take the time and do it well.

The meeting was opened to the board members.

Commissioner Hebekeuser was pleased to see the attendees and hear the great suggestions. We need to make it work.

Commissioner Chavora commented that the board talked about going through the plan several pages at a time. We have several great suggestions and need to keep it going.

Mr. Zettel stated he would add Chapter 13 – Trails, and Chapter 14 – Non Park Lands. Those would be recreational such as the area near the water treatment plant. This would be added to the Master Plan also.

Chairperson Ladd stated that a new splash pad may not be in a park or even in the city. Ms. Ladd went to a regional meeting to discuss assets and needs in the community. The Shiawassee River was a very high priority along with Baker College.

Mr. Hebekeuser agrees with Mr. Dibeau's comments regarding Bennett Field.

Mr. Zettel stated that we need to build more flexibility in the Parks and Recreation Plan so if someone comes up with a special fund something may move ahead. When special groups bring in plans and resources, that project may move ahead.

The board decided to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, September 13 at 6 p.m. to work on the Parks and Recreation Plan.

## 2. Disc Golf

Jonathon Beebe, 1309 N. Hickory Street, discussed the benefits of disc golf – mostly it being great exercise and a lot of fun. McCurdy Park installed theirs in 2009 and he was part of that process.

Darcey Crank, 317 S. Elm, talked about the principles of the game and showed the board a disc. It costs about \$5-6,000 for the course. He had checked out some of the parks and favored Rosevear Park. It could be installed without cutting any trees. It has water and there would be no clearing of brush. This game is becoming more and more popular and several surrounding communities have them too. He continued that fundraising could involve the Cook Foundation, or local businesses could sponsor a hole with advertising – possibly restaurants for after game refreshments.

Commissioner Selbig commented Rosevear Park should be a priority. There is so much that needs to be done there – it's very overgrown.

Mr. Hebekeuser asked the men to keep coming to the Parks and Rec meetings, and to please come back on September 13.

Mr. Crank answered a question and said that the Par was three on each hole.

## 3. Fundraising Update/Bentley Park

Commissioner Chavora stated that the last event raised \$700. The next event will be a Concert in the Park at Bentley Park on the first Friday after Labor Day.

### **Staff Comments:**

Mr. Zettel stated the Kiwanis wanted to combine the first two phases / renderings. The board was in general consensus that the renderings were firm in their design for the playscape at Bentley Park.

### **Adjournment:**

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

**Ayes: all, motion carried**

Marty Stinson  
Recording Secretary