

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission
Council Chambers, City Hall
June 23, 2014 – 6 p.m.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chairman Espich.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call: Taken by Recording Secretary Marty Stinson.

Members Present: Chairman Michael Espich; Vice-Chairman Jeff Selbig; Commissioners Tim Alderman and Nikki Hathaway.

Members Absent: Commissioner Kristen Woodbury.

Others Present: Ms. Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development; Ms. Mary Shi, a graduate from Yale University and a Cook Foundation Owosso Fellow.

Approve Agenda for June 23, 2014 meeting:

A motion to approve the agenda for June 23, 2014 meeting was made by Commissioner Hathaway and supported by Commissioner Alderman with the addition of a business item requested by Rick Morris regarding the Skateboard Park.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes from May 23, 2014 meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2014 meeting was made by Commissioner Alderman and supported by Commissioner Hathaway with one correction that Liam Hathaway thought the parks were “pretty good”.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

Board Comments:

Ms. Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development, introduced Ms. Mary Shi, a graduate from Yale University and a Cook Foundation Owosso Fellow.

Chairman Espich asked about the status of the Bark Park clean-up. Commissioner Selbig stated that it is cleaned up and mostly just needs trimming along the fence. The Chairman has a weed whip if someone will hold up the fence as it is worked on, he could do it. It was also suggested that a pet friendly grass killer be applied at the fence line.

Ms. Montenegro has not heard from anyone about the disc golf. Chairman Espich suggested that no decisions be made at this time. Mayor Frederick is talking with some people about the cemetery property.

Discussion about the possible \$5,000 expenditure line item for the Parks and Recreation Commission netted that it would still have to be approved by council to be disbursed. The commission understands

that, but still would like some discretionary funds. An example would be to direct some money towards the disc golf installation at Rosevear Park.

Ms. Montenegro noted that the check has been issued to Mr. Daniel Vargas for the bike rack, but it has not been installed yet at Bentley Park. Chairman Espich will follow-up on that.

Communications:

1. Staff memorandum
2. May 27, 2014 minutes

Business:

1. Promoting Active Communities (PAC) Assessment Update

Chairman Espich noted that he, Commissioner Woodbury, and Ms. Montenegro met and worked on this assessment. Ms. Mary Shi also worked on it as well. It should be done before July 15. Ms. Montenegro noted that the last self-assessment was in 2009 when the city got an award.

Ms. Shi continued that Shiawassee County is becoming a “Shining Star” and can be a check mark on future grant applications.

2. Skate Park Pad

Commissioner Alderman stated that he received an e-mail from Rick Morris. The city installed a skate Park with ramps and jumps. Per Mr. Morris, the ramps have sunk into the asphalt and are dangerous. The Iron Wheels Club is willing to donate funds towards fixing this if the city will tear out the asphalt and install concrete instead. A construction company was mentioned that will donate the labor and a company was mentioned that will donate the concrete at cost. The Iron Wheels wants the Parks and Recreation Commission to recommend to the city to tear out the asphalt and install the concrete. Commissioner Alderman has no opinion; he is just conveying the message. The Iron Wheels have about \$5,000 to donate and they are tired of the situation.

Chairman Espich recalled that about two years ago, Rick Morris stated the same to Mr. Zettel at a 50% co-pay situation. Ms. Montenegro said she could look into the situation to see if they can get further funding. She would also check into the liability. She also mentioned looking into other locations to help keep the skateboarders away from the downtown area.

Chairman Espich noted that the Iron Wheels and Mr. Morris should be aware that the Parks and Recreation Commission is only an advisory group.

Motion by Commissioner Alderman, supported by Commissioner Selbig to recommend the city develop a plan to make the skate park safe with a contribution of labor and material as soon as possible using funds from the Iron Wheels with matching funds from the city and the skate park is to be inspected immediately by the city for safety.

Ayes all. Motion carried.

3. Safe Routes 2 Schools Discussion

Ms. Mary Shi discussed this federal program to encourage bike, walk and roll to school. This program offers funds for infrastructure such as sidewalks and non-infrastructure such as education about road rules for six schools in the community. This is a year long application project with construction taking up to three to four years.

Commissioner Alderman thinks this is a terrific program. Right now you see so many people on bikes not riding them correctly in traffic. The education piece is important.

Ms. Shi said it will be educating the community also. Ms. Montenegro said this is about \$1.25 million in infrastructure which can also assist others than just students in the community. Ms. Shi has spoken with the RESD; school principals; Mike Ash; Ms. Montenegro and others to establish a committee. The process from grant submission to acceptance will take about three months. Ms. Montenegro noted this is not a competitive bid. The regional coordinator will work with the city to help make it the best “rolling” grant.

Public / Board Comments:

Ms. Montenegro noted that there were some problems with the new splash pad with kids trying to pack mud and sticks into the spray nozzles. The city is now trying to create an agreement with the YMCA to have them oversee and check the splash pad daily.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Alderman and was supported by Commissioner Selbig. The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

mms

Susan Montenegro, Secretary