

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission
Council Chambers, City Hall
July 28, 2014 – 6 p.m.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:02 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 Nikki Hathaway and Kristen Woodbury.

Members Absent: Commissioner Tim Alderman.

Others Present: Ms. Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development.

Approve Agenda for July 28, 2014 meeting:

A motion to approve the agenda for July 28, 2014 meeting was made by Commissioner Hathaway and supported by Commissioner Woodbury.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes from June 23, 2014 meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2014 meeting was made by Commissioner Woodbury and supported by Commissioner Selbig.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

Board Comments:

Chairman Espich said the river clean up was nice.

Ms. Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development, was asked by Chairman Espich about the skate park and said she would check into that.

Communications:

1. Staff memorandum
2. June 23, 2014 minutes

Business:

1. Ice Rink Update

Chairman Espich noted that he and Mark Sedlak are still looking for a time to measure the tennis courts to see how big of an ice rink they can fit into the tennis courts. They may have an extra \$1,000 so they could get a larger rink.

Ms. Montenegro asked for Mark Mitchell, the Public Works Superintendent, where the rink is going to be stored off season. She asked about the swimming pool building. Chairman Espich said it was a fork lift

item when folded up. Discussion about a second skating rink where the Holman pool was; maybe install a cement pad there with the possibility of locking the rink at night.

2. Sledding Hill Safety Concerns at Holman Grove

Ms. Montenegro mentioned the railroad tie steps are crooked and the top of the hill is too small making it crowded when the people are gathering there. There are trees at the bottom with hay bales there last year. It was suggested to adjust the stairs, connect a rope beside the stairs or make a hand railing. It was also suggested to make a smaller slope halfway up and go west for younger kids.

3. Park Hours – in Park Rules and Regulations – Should it be an Ordinance?

Chairman Espich has spoken with Public Safety Director Lenkart. He is unable to enforce rules that are not a specific ordinance with specific hours. Police are unable to remove people from the parks at a specific time. Discussion of various parks and various hours. Chief Lenkart is to be invited to the next meeting to continue this discussion.

4. Volunteers Helping at the Dog Park and Around Town

Ms. Montenegro stated church and youth groups have worked around the community and at the Bark Park. There is also a realtor community that has asked to volunteer and is looking for suggestions on a project.

5. Trail Maintenance at Collamer Park (Kiwanis Trail)

Ms. Montenegro noted that the gentleman who voluntarily maintained the trails is no longer able to. It was suggested the morning Kiwanis or the Boy Scouts adopt the trails. Ms. Montenegro will contact both groups.

6. Handicap / Wheelchair Swings

Chairman Espich noted on social media a discussion about handicap / wheelchair swings. Ms. Montenegro printed off some suggestions, but the no one has followed up with her. She will check her e-mails, and with RESD about their wheelchair swing.

7. Vandalism at Various Parks – Volunteer Group – Community Involvement

Chairman Espich attended a meeting with the Mayor and several others regarding the vandalism at the parks. They have decided to keep the bathrooms open during the day and some volunteers are closing them at night. Ms. Montenegro suggested a community volunteer watch may help and deter the vandalism. Chairman Espich suggested more people should call the non-emergency sheriffs department phone number when they see something occurring. Maybe this commission should write a letter to the editor. Ms. Montenegro read some suggestions from an article she included from the packet – stainless steel sinks instead of ceramic; dispensers in the wall, web- based cameras. Chairman Espich said that Chief Lenkart stated that Central Dispatch has too much to do than to watch cameras from the parks. Chairman Espich said that as long as Chief Lenkart was invited to the next meeting on another matter, maybe he could speak on this issue also.

Discussion:

1. Promoting Active Communities. Submitted on July 15 – Should receive a Bronze Award, Will find out in the Fall.

Ms. Montenegro noted that the assessment has already been turned in. There is no grant money; this is just to show Owosso is a walkable town and to promote activities.

2. www.activeshiawassee.com is up and running thanks to the hard work and dedication of

Approved August 25, 2014

three Owosso Fellows, Mary Shi, Chloe Larkin and Courtney Crawford, through the Cook Family Foundation. Check the site out!

Ms. Montenegro explained that www.activeshiawassee.com promotes an active life style in Owosso and other communities and has a Facebook page.

Public / Board Comments: None

Adjournment:

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

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

mms

Susan Montenegro, Secretary