

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission
Council Chambers, City Hall
August 25, 2014 – 6 p.m.

- Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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, Shane Nelson, and Kristen Woodbury.
- Members Absent:** None.
- Others Present:** Ms. Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development.

Chairman Espich introduced the new commissioner, Shane Nelson, who is replacing Commissioner Nicole Hathaway.

Approve Agenda for August 25, 2014 meeting:

A motion to approve the agenda for August 25, 2014 meeting was made by Commissioner Alderman and supported by Commissioner Woodbury.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes from July 28, 2014 meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes from the July 28, 2014 meeting was made by Commissioner Woodbury and supported by Commissioner Selbig.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

Board Comments:

Commissioner Alderman welcomed Commissioner Nelson to the Board.

Communications:

1. Staff memorandum
2. June 23, 2014 minutes

Business:

1. Park Hours – Kevin Lenkart

Public Safety Director Kevin Lenkart spoke about the park hours. The city doesn't have an ordinance other than the park rules. The police don't enforce rules. It would be best to have the same rules for all parks because people from out of town don't know the names of the parks. Police can't be in the parks 24/7. 10 p.m. seems to be the normal closing time around the state.

Discussion continued about vandalism; lighting; Hopkins Lake having all night fishing; and lights being on for extended hours might invite people to come and play past closing hours.

Chief Lenkart commented about security cameras being what you pay for; that the board couldn't ask for officers or central dispatch to monitor the cameras continuously; that if they could be reached, they'll be damaged; and that the cameras would be recording in the dark.

Motion by Commissioner Alderman, supported by Commissioner Selbig, to table this topic for another month.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Discussion about finding out what other cities have done with a look at park ordinances in Michigan through Google, and Municode.com for further research.

2. Trail Maintenance at Collamer Park (Kiwanis Trail)

Ms. Montenegro has been in contact with Doug Cornell who is a member of the a.m. Kiwanis Club. He and his wife would like to step into the role to clean and maintain the trail. Mr. Cornell will talk with the a.m. Kiwanis Club as well to seek their involvement in maintaining the trail.

3. Community Garden Waivers

Ms. Montenegro noted that the Commission has a copy of the waiver that was accepted by the Community Garden group. This has been out on the website. The waiver was purely informational for the board.

4. Ice Rink Update

Chairman Espich noted that he sent an e-mail to Mark Sedlak to measure the court at Bentley Park. That will be done and the rink will be ordered by September first.

5. Sledding Hill Safety Concerns at Holman Grove

Chairman Espich looked at the steps. He had an idea about packing the steps with limestone. He will look at them again with Mr. Sedlak. He will also consult with Mr. Sedlak about the shorter steps going northwest for the smaller children. Ms. Montenegro said that maybe some of the dirt could be used for a berm in front of the trees. Discussion about the top of the hill being flattened out, and a possible railing with rope and posts.

Discussion:

Commissioner Woodbury asked about locking and unlocking the Bentley bathrooms. A few volunteers are locking and unlocking the bathrooms on a rotating basis.

Ms. Montenegro likes the idea of adding more lights as the vandalism seems to be getting worse. We need to see what other communities are doing; get more signs up; calling the non-emergency 911 more frequently; develop and take more pride in our community and local parks. Locks with timers were suggested. Possibly lights with timers were suggested; enforce park hours.

Public / Board Comments: None

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Selbig and was supported by Commissioner Alderman. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

mms

Susan Montenegro, Secretary