Minutes

**Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission**

**Council Chambers / City Hall**

**November 24, 2014 – 6 p.m.**

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chairman Espich.

**Roll Call:** Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Marty Stinson.

**Members Present**: Chairman Michael Espich; Vice-Chairman Jeff Selbig; Commissioner Tim Alderman.

**Members Absent**: Commissioners Shane Nelson and Kristen Woodbury.

**Others Present**: Ms. Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development; Ms. Lorri Matousek and her son Zack Matousek; Daniel Smith.

**Approve Agenda for November 24, 2014 meeting:**

**A motion to approve the agenda for November 24, 2014 meeting was made by Commissioner**

**Alderman, and supported by Vice-Chairman Selbig.**

**Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

**Approve Minutes for September 22, 2014 and October 13, 2014**:

**A motion to approve the minutes for September 22, 2014 and October 13, 2014 was made by Commissioner Alderman, and supported by Vice-Chairman Selbig.**

**Ayes all. Motion carried.**

**Public Comments:**

Zack Matousek of Henderson is preparing to work on his Eagle Scout service project. He would like to work on some playground equipment at Adams Park. He has checked into a banana split system with two slides and a fort in the middle. Additionally it would have some bark on the ground. This would be a donation to the park. He would need approval from the city and he needs to ask the Boy Scouts of America for their approval also. The Commission was quite pleased with his ideas. He would like to work on it this next summer. Commissioner Alderman suggested Zach do more research and bring it back to the December 8th Parks and Recreation meeting with a set of plans, cost breakdown and images. Ms. Montenegro, Assistant City Manager, offer to assist Zach with future funding if he wished to contact her.

**Communications:**

1. Staff memorandum
2. September 22, 2014 minutes
3. October 13, 2014 minutes
4. Preventing Vandalism
5. Park Hours of Operation: Auburn Hills, Brighton and Cadillac
6. Park Hours of Operation draft ordinance for Owosso

**Business:**

1. **Vandalism Measures**

Ms. Montenegro prepared a packet with information from other parks in the state. Some stated that cameras with wire cage enclosures had been beneficial with reducing vandalism events. Some maintain shrubs so vandals can’t hide. Other communities have completely closed down their bathrooms. Also included were city ordinances, and rules and regulations from parks with sections regarding reimbursements by taking persons to court with fines so the proceeds can be used to make repairs at parks.

Chairman Espich noted one park that had cameras mounted across the street on an IGA that was not monitored, but when an incident occurred, then the film was reviewed. He will continue to investigate this type of camera.

Emerson, Oak Grove Park, which is not a city park, experienced a reduction of vandalism because neighbors and church groups have been patrolling more frequently.

Bentley Park seems to have more traffic. Discussion followed about vandalism. Commissioner Alderman does not understand why this happens. We need someone to explain to the board why kids act that way. The Sheriff’s Department doesn’t advise cameras. Vandals know how to disable, paint over or cover them. Discussion about a phone number on a sign that could be texted to if someone sees damage. Alderman suggested an expert in cameras come speak to the board about what we should get – night vision? Clear image, etc. Ms. Montenegro said more lighting. Alderman said his insurance agent and sheriff said more lighting.

**2. Ordinance Review and Resolution.**

Ms. Montenegro submitted a hybrid version of Section 21-8 Park Hours. The hours can be changed for particular events. Mostly the parks would be closed from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. Vice-Chairman Selbig questioned Section 21-3. Ms Montenegro will research further for the next meeting. There should be no restricted hours on fishing. This revision will still need to go before the council for a public forum. This will be revised and put on the December 8th agenda.

**3. Restocking Hopkins Lake**

Daniel Smith would like to do a restocking project at Hopkins Lake. There just aren’t any more fish there to be caught without a boat. He has some information from the DNR about getting a permit to restock. The permit is free, but with a permit the DNR can keep better track of what goes into the lake. Mr. Smith had a list of different fish that could go in the lake which hasn’t been stocked since 1996. He also has a price list for fish. Mr. Smith will be talking to a biologist tomorrow about the fish. Commissioner Alderman loves his enthusiasm and knowledge, but can’t make a decision without hearing from qualified personnel. Can someone else with more data make a presentation? Mr. Smith will see about having someone come to a meeting. The board wants to hear more. Ms Montenegro will check with the city clerk if the city has any record about what has happened in the past. Mr. Smith will come back to the December 8th meeting and will start seeking funds for the restocking.

**4. Residency Requirement for Commission Member(s) –** No discussion at this time.

**Discussion:**

**1. Ice rink Update**

Per Chairman Espich the DPW guys don’t have time right now with the leaf pickup program to work on the ice rink. Mr. Espich needs 10 to 20 guys to do this. Ms. Montenegro needs to have the packing slip checked to make sure everything has arrived. On Wednesday, December 10th the board and Ms. Montenegro will check that over.

**2. Sledding Hill –** No discussion at this time.

**3. Open Meetings Act –** No discussion at this time.

**Motion by Commissioner Alderman, supported by Vice-Chairman Selbig to table other items on the agenda due to time constraints until the December 8th meeting.**

**Ayes All. Motion carried.**

**Adjournment:**

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Vice-Chairman Selbig and was supported by Commissioner Alderman. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.**

**Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

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mms Susan Montenegro, Secretary