

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Council Chambers / City Hall**  
**April 27, 2015 – 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:** Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Marty Stinson.
- Members Present:** Chairman Michael Espich; Commissioners Shane Nelson and Kristen Woodbury.
- Members Absent:** Vice-Chairman Jeff Selbig and Commissioner Tim Alderman.
- Others Present:** Ms. Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development; Mr. Rick Morris, House of Wheels; Mr. Corey Martin; Mr. Nick Holsom; Mr. Brody Terry; Mr. Brice Maurer; Mr. Garret Deroche; Mr. Jon Baker; Mr. Taylor Hoisington; Mr. Jessie Martinez; Mr. Ian Shire.

**Approve Agenda for April 27, 2015:**

**A motion to approve the agenda for meeting of April 27, 2015, was made by Commissioner Nelson, and supported by Commissioner Woodbury.**

**Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

**Approve Minutes for March 23, 2015 meeting:**

**A motion to approve the minutes of March 23, 2015 was made by Commissioner Woodbury, and supported by Commissioner Nelson.**

**Ayes all. Motion carried.**

**Public Comments:**

Chairman Espich thanked everyone in the audience for coming. He was very happy to see so many participants at this meeting.

**Communications:**

1. Staff memorandum
2. March 23, 2015 minutes

**Business:**

**1. Skate Park Renovation Idea Generation**

Ms. Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development described current conditions and mentioned that the condition of the small pad is hazardous. She introduced Mr. Rick Morris, owner of the House of Wheels. He is one of the major contributors of making today happen. She also mentioned that volunteers have raised \$12,000 from the Plunge for the Parks. She mentioned that the cost of ripping out the pad and replacing it is about \$5-6,000, so to double the size would be all the money that was raised. They want to reuse the current equipment and use reinforced concrete rather than asphalt. Ms. Montenegro invited the audience to participate about how to fill the space at the Skate Park.

Mr. Corey Martin suggested having welded rails with different kinds of rails. He also thought the sidewalk idea is cool with benches and flowers to make it look nice. Mr. Nick Holsom stated that we need more trash cans. Mr. Rick Morris said more posts were needed so cars aren't parking on the pavement. Mr. Brody Terry asked for more lights.

Mr. Brice Maurer said they need bathrooms at the skate park. Someone else mentioned that the dirt hills are not good. They are hazardous – they track dirt and rocks on the Skate Park and then we fall. I don't see many people using the dirt bike track said Garret Deroche.

Mr. Martin commented that Mt. Pleasant has painted their rails flat black which helps to prevent slipping. Mr. Deroche added that benches and picnic tables to sit on and grind would be nice. Ms. Montenegro noted that cement is more durable. We want to put in things that the skaters want. Cement benches are used to be grind. Metal picnic tables would be good. There could be a cement plot to the south.

Mr. Jon Baker mentioned that maybe the ramps could be patched instead. Ms. Montenegro said maybe we could install tables where the hazards are now and stretch out the park southward. Mr. Taylor Hoisington said the park needs more flow. It's almost half a park. You get speed and then have to stop. Maybe talk to Vernon and take their ramps to Owosso. Vernon's doesn't get used very much.

Ms. Montenegro stated we could put in inexpensive stuff, but it won't last as long. Prices range from \$180 for a rail to \$1,500 for a ramp. Mr. Morris said that Iron Wheels wants to help pave and put in dark dirt and help keep out dirt on the Skate Park. Now it's gravel with grass growing in it.

Mr. Jessie Martinez would like a fun box with a big ramp in the middle with rails. Someone else wanted a water fountain. Mr. Ian Shire stated that the BMX course needs smoothing out. It has ruts and stones.

Mr. Baker wants a long quarter pipe to increase flow. We also need a new safety sign that says this is not a playground. He has almost run into small children while skating. Mr. Martin said we need cinder blocks and angle iron.

Ms. Montenegro talked about Go Fund Me and Crowd Funding and possibly raising more money. She asked if anyone was interested in working at the park if more money was raised. Almost everyone raised their hand to help work and apply sweat equity. "Awesome." "Perfect." "We like to be creative and make our own stuff". It would have to be approved by the city cautioned Ms. Montenegro. We encourage your ideas, but it has to be approved by the city. Someone else mentioned that Flint Township has an old S-10 cemented into the ground.

Ms. Montenegro wants to make the downtown safer and make the Skate Park more interesting and make it the skater's space. With their sweat equity it could cut the city's costs. The young people then went to some maps that Ms. Montenegro had laying on a table and they drew in some diagrams that they wanted to see started at the Skate Park. Discussion continued about the future fund raising possibilities.

6:50 p.m. Mike Cline arrived. He lives across the street from the park and wondered about the expansion.

### **Discussion:**

#### **1. Reminder: Greenup/Cleanup Opportunities**

The Downtown Cleanup will be on Saturday, May 2 at 10 a.m.to 1 p.m. There will be a lunch at Roma's for volunteers at 1:15 p.m. sponsored by Chemical and 5/3 Banks.

**Public / Board Comments:** None

**Adjournment:**

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Nelson, and was supported by Commissioner Woodbury. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.**

**Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

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Susan Montenegro, Secretary

mms