

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission
Council Chambers, City Hall
March 26, 2012 – 6 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairman Hebekeuser.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Marty Stinson.

Members Present: Chairman Jerry Hebekeuser, Commissioners Sherri Chavora, Michael Espich, Marsha Ladd, and Jeff Selbig (arrived 6:10 p.m.)

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Adam Zettel, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development; Councilmember Burton Fox; former Councilmember Gary Martenis; Dave Green, 604 Ryan Street; James & Mary Hartner, 823 S. Washington; and Jonathan Beebe, and Dorcey Crank, Disc Golf.

Approve Agenda for March 26, 2012:

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Commissioner Chavora and supported by Commissioner Espich.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes from February 27, 2012 meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2012 meeting was made by Commissioner Espich and supported by Commissioner Chavora.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

Dave Green, 604 Ryan Street, can't stand the smell of smoke and has allergies. He supports the ban on smoking in the parks.

Former Councilmember Gary Martenis stated that an outdoor facility is no place to take away the right to smoke. Inside yes, but not in an outdoor arena.

James Hartner, 832 S. Washington Street, agrees with Mr. Martenis.

Councilmember Burton Fox advises setting aside a designated area for smoking.

Marty Hartner, 832 S. Washington Street, does not agree with Mr. Fox.

Communications:

1. Staff memorandum
2. February 27, 2012 minutes
3. Community build project sheets
4. Disc Golf report
5. Splash pad report
6. Park Rules for 2012

Business:

1. Bentley Park Playscape Community Build – Staff update & volunteer information

Adam Zettel, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development, is looking for authorization to seek council approval of the Bentley Park Playscape Community Build.

6:10 p.m. Commissioner Selbig arrived.

Mr. Zettel reviewed the outline that would be presented for council approval for the schedule of volunteer needs and the breakdown for the June 14 – 16 build dates.

Motion by Commissioner Ladd, supported by Commissioner Chavora to recommend approval of the Bentley Park Playscape Community Build 2012 donation to the city council and further recommend purchase of the equipment pending a June 14-16, 2012 build date.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Mr. Zettel stated that Commissioner Chavora has volunteered to lead the pre-assembly team. City Clerk Amy Kirkland volunteered to lead the food donations distribution. We still need an independent coordinator to direct the volunteers and another one to direct the contractors. Mr. Zettel stated that he has applied for a grant with Home Depot, also. Commissioner Ladd may help as the coordinator for the volunteers after school is out at the end of May. Mr. Martenis said he would talk to Ms. Kirkland about helping her with the food donations.

Mr. Zettel mentioned other improvements at the park. Bids are being prepared for grants. They are trying to time this out so it isn't concurrent with the playscape building, but definitely this summer. It is hoped that the bathrooms can be completed in May to be available during the playscape build.

2. Disc Golf – Dorsey Crank

Chairman Hebekeuser said that he and Commissioners Chavora and Espich were awestruck by the disc course that they recently visited. They now have approval with the cemetery people. Mr. Zettel has attempted to contact some of the bike people who use the Rosevear Park. He wanted to assure them that the park is only going to have one or two holes and will still be useable for their activities.

Motion by Commissioner Espich and supported by Commissioner Selbig to recommend that council approve the disc golf donation and fundraising for placement in Rosevear Park in a manner and location to be specifically determined at a later date.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

3. Splash Pad Donation and Layout

Commissioner Espich reviewed his handout with four packages available with different splash pad sizes and prices. It is desired to put one in Bentley Park this summer. Commissioner Ladd asked about the flooding in the park. Mr. Zettel said it could be installed in a dry area near the playscape. The play equipment in the park now will be moved to other parks.

Motion by Commissioner Espich, supported by Commissioner Selbig to recommend that the city council approve the splash pad donation at Bentley Park, with the specific design and placement to be determined at a later date and further allow fundraising to begin for this project.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

4. Staff update on 2012 Projects (Bark Park curbs, Amphitheater, Riverwalk Signs, etc.)

Mr. Zettel commented that the gate at Bennett Field will be replaced. The roof at the Amphitheater will be replaced with a metal roof. The Loop Park will have new signs donated by Mr. David Vaughn. The curbs at the Bark Park will remain in place at this time due to the budget. There is some history about those curbs that needs to be understood. Mr. Zettel will research more into that particular history.

5. Park Rules for 2012

Mr. Zettel has edited the park rules and regulations and showed the tracking so the board could see what the changes were. These have to be advertised before April 1st.

Commissioner Ladd asked if smoking was banned in the Michigan state parks. Mr. Zettel said no, not that he is aware. Maybe they are in the confines of specific areas where people are close together. Three communities in Michigan have complete bans; Traverse City, Huntington Woods and Muskegon. Chairman Hebekeuser suggested a ban on smoking around the areas where kids gather such as the dugouts at the ball fields.

Commissioner Ladd asked if we needed separate rules with the splashpad. Mr. Zettel said yes. Each time there is a major change, there should be published rules. Ms. Ladd wants to see what other cities have and other language about smoking bans. Mr. Zettel can do some research of other cities and can also give the commission more time to check out the parks. He could also survey the community through the social media.

Public / Board Comments:

Chairman Hebekeuser congratulated Commissioner Espich on his recent award as the 2011 Amos Gould Outstanding Citizen for his many years of volunteerism in the community.

Mr. Martenis suggested a mini sledding hill at Bentley Park with the excess dirt that will be available from the playscape excavations. He is still disappointed with the BMX Park. He feels the city should complete the project and forget about waiting for other volunteers.

Commissioner Ladd requested e-mails be sent to all the Parks and Recreation board members when the topic of the playscape is on the Council's agenda. Mr. Zettel assured that he would.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Ladd and was supported by Commissioner Espich. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Ayes: all, motion carried.

Adam Zettel, Secretary