

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall**  
**June 25, 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, Vice-Chairperson Marsha Ladd, Commissioners Sherri Chavora, Michael Espich, and Jeff Selbig.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** Adam Zettel, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development; Mayor Ben Frederick; Councilmember Chris Eveleth; Mr. Larry Hozak, volunteer at the playscape; Mr. Dave Acton, Splash Pad Committee; Mr. Daniel Vargas, contributor from the Mr. Owosso campaign; Mr. Dave Green; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Early; and Mr. Ned Bromley.

**Approve Agenda for June 25, 2012:**

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

**Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

**Approve Minutes from May 29, 2012 meeting:**

**A motion to approve the minutes from the May 29, 2012 meeting was made by Commissioner Espich and supported by Commissioner Ladd.**

**Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

**Public Comments:**

Mr. Larry Hozak, volunteer for the playscape at Bentley Park, wants to be involved with the work at the tennis court. Mr. Adam Zettel will talk with him tomorrow about the project. Mr. Zettel thanked Mr. Hozak for the post holes and other work he did for the playscape construction. Mr. Hozak also stated more parking was needed at Bentley Park.

Mr. Dave Green can see the playscape from his home and he said it was just beautiful.

Chairman Hebekeuser thanked Mr. Zettel for his work before and during the building of the playscape. Mr. Zettel has worked very hard to help make the playscape happen.

**Communications:**

1. Staff memorandum
2. May 29, 2012 minutes
3. Bentley Park sign
4. Park Rules for 2012

**Business:**

**1. Bentley Park Playscape debriefing and plaza**

Mr. Zettel stated **it's up**. The last swing has been installed and the tire swing is also up. The bathrooms at the park are open during the daytime. Commissioner Ladd reported that the bathrooms were clean and

stocked as of 5:30 today. Mr. Zettel said he has had only one call about mistreatment at the playscape.

Commissioner Chavora said a trash container is needed near the playscape. Mr. Zettel said they will still be installing picnic tables with slabs underneath them for convenience in mowing.

Commissioner Ladd asked for shower curtains to be installed in the women's bathroom until the restrooms are remodeled. Chairman Hebekeuser is going to check the supplies from the concession stand build and see if there is anything available there to build doors for the bathroom.

Discussion about painting over the graffiti on the Bentley Park pavilion – possibly with some volunteers helping. Commissioner Ladd also asked for a bike rack near the playscape and a drinking fountain. She mentioned that not all the electrical outlets are working at the pavilion. Also, the parking lot may need to be painted for the turn around at the east end as many cars were parked there since the opening of the playscape.

Mr. Zettel got a call from Consumers Energy – they will be trying to get some grading and seeding back about 100 feet from the highway done for their property north of Bentley Park.

Mr. Zettel received general approval from the board regarding the sign for Bentley Park. He is looking for a design for the plaza and for the brick placement. Commissioners Chavora and Selbig are on a subcommittee to work on the plaza and possibly a labyrinth pattern. This is a work in progress and may not be completed in the park until next year.

It was decided to put the discussion of a dedication ceremony for the playscape on next month's Park & Recreation agenda. The ceremony may be done in August before school starts after the splash pad is installed.

## **2. Disc Golf and Splash Pad Updates**

### **SPLASH PAD**

Mr. Dave Acton is on the Splash Pad Committee. He stated that Mr. Vargas, the benefactor of the money for the splash pad exceeded expectations by raising \$16,000. Discussion about processing the money through the RESD (Regional Education Service District). Mr. Acton continued that the design is created in modules. The first module will have 16 heads, is self contained and has a storage tank for collection and recirculation. It has a pump, 800 gallon tank, and piping for about \$4,000. Concrete, labor and remaining costs are above the \$4,000. As more money is available, more modules can be added. Sixteen heads accommodate about 30 people. It was suggested that the company the modules are purchased from could be hired to help with the first installation and then succeeding installations could be done by local volunteers after learning the process from the experts. They are looking to get council approval for the project in the July meetings.

Mr. Acton continued that they are working with the DEQ, and the DEQ is also excited to work with the city. They need to develop their own guidelines and are looking to Owosso's experience. Owosso could also help surrounding communities with their splash pads in the future.

Chairman Hebekeuser congratulated Daniel Vargas and for working so hard to raise the money for the splash pad.

Mr. Acton stated the splash pad is a one day installation after the excavation and cement pad are installed. Discussion about cement or rubber surface. Cement will last longer, but can be slippery sometimes when

it is wet. To rough it up, is sometimes hard on the feet. Rubber will help with traction, but doesn't last as long in Michigan winters. Mr. Acton said the goal was to install two modules at Bentley Park.

Mr. Acton also explained that there is a sweet spot when chlorinating water. They still use chlorine, but also use a light method in addition to further sterilize the water. Winter storage involves blowing the water out of the lines.

Mr. Ned Bromley from the audience said there is a lot of momentum right now in the community. This is great timing to continue with the splash pad. Bentley is a showcase. The splash pad should be real prominent so you can see what is there.

Mr. Acton said that the company wants about \$1,500 for an overhead item. For the first go around, it's hard to justify. They don't store or weather well. Ms. Pam Early commented that \$16,115 is already here and that there is still more money coming in. The sooner we do this; we can ride the interest and keep getting donations. Mr. Acton said some local businesses are interested in the project too. We can publicize needs. Maybe they could strive for one or two mushrooms. Mr. Acton is trying to negotiate a 20% discount with the company.

City Councilmember Christ Eveleth thanked everyone for their hard work on the playscape and for the splash pad. He said the Parks and Recreation Commission should send their recommendation to the Council as soon as possible and they will make it and the maintenance happen. He would love to see something sent from tonight's meeting. Mr. Zettel commented that Mr. Acton is going to do an overview for the council at their July 2 meeting.

Mayor Ben Frederick added his thanks. This is an exciting time to be on the Parks and Recreation Commission. He was glad to hear the timeline in July for the splash pad. He thanked everyone and was looking for a joint dedication for the playscape and splash pad.

Chairman Hebekeuser offered a special thanks to Adam Zettel for his guidance on this project; and for the council support. Commissioner Ladd added this project was very organized.

## **DISC GOLF**

Mr. Zettel commented on the recent news article in the Independent about disc golf at the championship level. This is a great time for Owosso to get involved.

### **3. Park Rules for 2012.**

Mr. Zettel stated the rules have already been published and they need approval before next spring. There were no comments from the board. Chairman Hebekeuser suggested putting the Park Rules on next month's agenda.

### **4. CIS Trail Update**

Mr. Zettel said he met with the group last month. They are interested in completing the trail. It is already 42 miles long and stops at the "S" curve on W. M-21. We are now on our own from there on into the city.

Michigan Greenways Trailways visited on Wednesday and they recommended that Owosso Township and City of Owosso have an Ad-Hoc Steering Committee together. There is an opportunity for possible funds from the Cook Foundation for planning purposes. Mr. Zettel encouraged a couple members from this board to join in. It was also noted that Rick Morris is very engaged. Mr. Zettel said it would be

connected all the way to Ionia; and Corunna is connected to Vernon.

**Public Comments / Board Comments**

Mr. Dave Green suggested moving the tennis courts at Bentley Park closer to the basket ball courts and have more parking that way.

**Adjournment:**

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Espich and was supported by Commissioner Selbig. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.**

**Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

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Adam Zettel, Secretary