

Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved Minutes

Date: June 3, 2009

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: DeVries Room, Hager Park

Present: Ted Bosgraaf, Ray Statema, Roger Jonas, Joyce Kortman, Jim Miedema, David Van Ginhoven, Paul Geerlings, and Phil Kuyers.

Absent: Bobbi Jones Sabine and David Vander Kooi.

Staff: John Scholtz, Director; Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development; Sherry Costello, Administrative Clerk; and Dave Mazurek, Park Operations Superintendent.

Guests: Shirley Marvin and Joyce Smith.

Subject: Approval of Minutes

PR 09-37 Motion: To approve the minutes of the Commission's May 6, 2009 regular meeting.
Moved by: Geerlings Supported by: Van Ginhoven Unanimous

Subject: Go Into Closed Session

PR 09-38 Motion: To go into Closed Session to discuss property matters.
Moved by: Miedema Supported by: Geerlings
Yeas: Bosgraaf, Geerlings, Statema, Van Ginhoven, Kortman, Jonas, and Miedema.
Nays: None Motion passed 7 to 0.

Subject: To Rise From Closed Session

PR 09-39 Motion: To rise from Closed Session.
Moved by: Statema Supported by: Kortman Unanimous

Subject: Dogs on Stairways

PR 09-40 Motion: To no longer allow dogs on the Mt. Pisgah Dune stairs and boardwalks at any time during the year.
Moved by: Kuyers Supported by: Miedema Unanimous

Subject: Park 12 Museum Advisory Committee

PR 09-41 Motion: To establish a Park 12 Museum Advisory Committee and appoint Joyce Smith, Daniel Aument, Nancy Gillette and Skip Nagelvoort to serve on the committee.
Moved by: Geerlings Supported by: Jonas Unanimous

Subject: Approval of 2010 Parks and Recreation Budget

PR 09-42 Motion: To approve the 2010 Parks and Recreation Budget proposal as recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee.
Moved by: Kuyers Supported by: Van Ginhoven Unanimous

Subject: Eastmanville Farm Barn Painting

PR 09-43 Motion: To receive bids and approve Painting Services of West Michigan as the most qualified contractor to paint the barn at Eastmanville Farm at a cost of \$21,675.
Moved by: Statema Supported by: Miedema Unanimous

Subject: Olive Shores Grant Amendment

PR 09-44 Motion: To approve and forward to the Board of Commissioners the Grant Amendment for the Olive Shores Design and Engineering Project correcting the End Date for the project from March 31, 2010 to September 30, 2009.
Moved by: Kortman Supported by: Kuyers Unanimous

Other Items Discussed:

President Bosgraaf called the meeting to order and asked for any additions or deletions to the agenda. Scholtz requested that two items be added to the agenda.

Commission members received the April 22, 2009 letter from Michael Harris of the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America, regarding the Mt. Pisgah project. Scholtz reported that additional comments would be made during the Director's report.

Bosgraaf moved on to Public Comment and Ms. Shirley Marvin, of 2635 Woodridge in Jenison, inquired as to why there was a hold up in adding a dog park to the county park

system. She stated that she had recently visited several dog parks in Florida with her pets and described the pleasure her pet experienced with the social interaction of other dogs. Ms. Marvin offered her services to petition, help raise funds or assist in maintaining an area for this specific use. She suggested the Fillmore at the Bend site as a potential site for this type of activity. Scholtz responded that a commitment had not been made to create a dog park and Bosgraaf stated that the Parks Commission decided to delay action on this request and revisit of the topic would be made in 2010. Statema recollected that some of the discussion was focused on reviewing the master planning of future potential park sites. Bosgraaf informed Ms. Marvin that staff is in the process of studying the request and thanked her for coming.

Commission members went into closed session to discuss property matters.

Commission members rose from closed session.

Commission members reviewed the report of the Parks and Recreation Commission expenditures through April 30, 2009.

Bosgraaf moved on to the Director's report and Scholtz reported on the success of the Friends' Grand Lady Boat Cruise. He commented that there were several local government officials that attended.

Scholtz continued with a water issue at Hiawatha Forest and reported that a letter from Attorney Bly was received on behalf of a resident of the area seeking damages for a "sewage disposal system event". He reported that Ottawa County Corporation Council had replied to the claim on behalf of the county.

Scholtz then reported on a request from Drain Commissioner Geerlings for a drainage easement on a natural stream running through the Port Sheldon Natural Area. Scholtz reported that staff walked the area and it did not appear to be obstructed. Scholtz will meet with Geerlings and his Engineer to walk the site and review the situation.

Scholtz then referred to two draft response letters included in his Director's report regarding ADA compliance at Mt. Pisgah. After a brief discussion, Scholtz will make necessary revisions and reply to the individuals.

Scholtz continued with a request from a patron reserving the DeVries Room to have a hot air balloon launch during their event. The Commission approved the launch by consensus provided insurance requirements are met.

Bosgraaf called for the Parks Operations Report and Mazurek presented his report as written. Statema commented on the large number of pounds of Garlic Mustard that was pulled. Mazurek reported that the Stewardship Crew is doing a fantastic job. He also commented that there have been several volunteer groups that have made enormous contributions to the parks.

Bosgraaf moved on to the Park's Naturalist's Report and Scholtz gave a brief update on the construction of the Nature Education Center.

Bosgraaf called for the report of the Finance and Personnel Committee. Kuyers inquired if Scholtz had been able to make contact with the Sheriff's office regarding the Sentence Work Abatement Program (SWAP) crew. Scholtz is still in the process of making contact. Kuyers submitted the report as written and Scholtz will discuss the 2010 Budget later in the meeting.

Bosgraaf asked Scholtz for the Park 12 Advisory Committee report and Scholtz summarized the meeting with the announcement of a new advisory member, Jerry Hunsberger. He then discussed the handling of future encroachments at Park 12 and noted that the Advisory Committee recommended removing the boats that are located off of Auburn Avenue. Scholtz then reported a problem staff is having with dogs on the Mt. Pisgah dune stairs. Committee members agreed with staff and felt action may need to be taken. Commission members discussed the Mt. Pisgah dune stairs and the issue with dogs defecating on the stairs. Kuyers question whether dogs should be allowed in the parks system where we have long stairways as this could make for an uncomfortable situation when a dog owner is passing another patron that may be afraid of dogs. Kortman expressed the importance of signage and Jonas felt that many dog owners would not obey signage. Bosgraaf asked if all signage could be installed by the dedication date. Mazurek confirmed installation time frame. TerHaar suggested putting the notice by the bike sign. Scholtz also mentioned that the Advisory Committee thought that dogs could possibly be allowed during the off season, but Commission members disagreed. Commission approved the rule change by motion.

Scholtz described a beach grading incident the occurred at Park 12. Scholtz recommended eliminating this specific dozing company from the bidding list in the future on the basis that they did not follow our directions. The West Michigan Park Association has offered to replant the damaged dune grass in the spring. Scholtz will also write a letter to the neighbor involved in the incident.

Scholtz then discussed the museum at Park 12 and suggested that a committee be formally appointed. The Park 12 Museum Advisory Committee was created by motion.

Scholtz reported that the Park 12 Advisory expressed their desire to see bathrooms in the Mt. Pisgah area. Bosgraaf suggested speaking with the State Parks staff.

Bosgraaf called for Old Business and TerHaar gave a brief update on the construction progress of the Nature Education Center. He then reported that a public meeting would be held on June 17, 2009 at 6:30 pm in the Main Conference Room at the Fillmore Complex to discuss Olive Shores master planning. Bosgraaf then complimented staff on the North Ottawa Dunes project and dedication ceremony. Statema expressed how proud he was to be part of the Commission and be able to offer such a large number of natural resource areas to the public.

Commission members received the 2010 Parks and Recreation Budget Proposal and Scholtz updated Commission members on the Social Security, Unemployment and Workman's Compensation line items. He also indicated that the new positions requested for 2010 were not included in the proposal and would be added when approved by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. The 2010 proposed Parks and Recreation Budget was approved by motion.

Commission members received the bids for the Eastmanville Farm Barn Painting Project. Mazurek explained that he would like to recommend the third lowest bidder which is Painting Services of West Michigan. He explained the first two lowest bidders do not have any barn painting experience which was a requirement of the bid proposal. He also explained that the cost difference between the third lowest and lowest bidder was only \$175. Total cost for the project would be \$21,675. Commission members approved the recommendation by Mazurek to award the project to Painting Services of West Michigan.

Scholtz then informed Commission members of an amendment to the grant agreement with the Department of Environmental Quality correcting the agreement End Date from March 31, 2010 to September 30, 2009, for the Olive Shores Design and Engineering Project. The amendment was approved by motion.

Bosgraaf asked for Public Comment and Ms. Joyce Smith thanked staff for assisting in removing some debris at Park 12. She then commended Francke on the most recent issue of the Parks Newsletter.

Bosgraaf asked for commissioner comment and Kortman requested to meet with Mazurek regarding some stolen park signs and Kuyers made a request to revisit the Pigeon Creek Park overflow parking area. Kuyers felt the current parking area would still not be able to handle parking demands in the future. Scholtz will work with staff and bring a new plan for review.

The Parks Commission went into Closed Session to discuss property matters.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.