

BUCHANAN AREA RECREATION BOARD (B.A.R.B.)
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 09, 2021 – 6:00 PM
BUCHANAN CITY HALL CHAMBER, 302 N REDBUD TRL, BUCHANAN MI

MINUTES

THE BUCHANAN AREA RECREATION BOARD in compliance with Michigan's Open Meetings Act hereby gives notice of a regular meeting.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Members present: Brittany Frantz, Ashley Hanson, Mayor Sean Denison, Megan Weedon, and Non-Voting Member City Manager Heather Grace. Guests present: Jennifer Popielski, Jason Stroud, and Dan Vigansky. Members absent: Bethany Cowan.

IV. Approve Agenda

Motion by Hanson, seconded by Frantz, to approve the agenda. Motion passed via voice vote.

V. Public Comment - Agenda Items Only *(3-minute limit)*

Public comment given by Jennifer Popielski and Dan Vigansky, who both expressed interest in joining the BARB. Jason Stroud was also welcomed to the meeting and indicated that he was in attendance to speak about some exciting issues relating to composting.

VI. Consent Agenda *(can be approved all in one motion, for general housekeeping items)*

Minutes from the most recent meeting were not reviewed, as it had been several meetings since any official business had been conducted due to a continued lack of a quorum, and the meeting minutes from several months prior, when the most recent quorum occurred, were not able to be located as they were prepared by an employee who was off on maternity leave.

VII. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was presented.

VIII. New Business

A. B.A.R.B. Appointments - Recommendations, recruitment, and term lengths

Motion by Frantz, seconded by Hanson, to recommend that the Buchanan City Commission appoint Jennifer Popielski and Dan Vigansky to the BARB. Motion passed via voice vote.

Motion by Denison, seconded by Frantz, to recommend that the Buchanan City Commission approve re-appointments/term extensions to existing BARB members, as follows: Ashley Hanson re-appointed to a term ending in 2024, Sean Denison re-appointed to a term ending in 2022; Megan Weedon re-appointed to a term ending in 2023. Motion passed via voice vote.

B. B.A.R.B. Membership - Confirm contact information for all current B.A.R.B. members

Discussion was held evidencing a consensus of the BARB members present that membership appointment spots for a "School Board" position should be removed, and that rather than having a "Buchanan Township at Large" and "Niles Township at Large" position, that there should just be three general "At Large" positions.

Motion by Frantz, seconded by Hanson to make the changes to BARB membership requirements as discussed. Motion passed via a voice vote.

C. B.A.R.B. Bylaws

Additional discussions were held regarding the BARB's bylaws to reflect the changes approved earlier in the meeting, including the changes to remove the School Board positions and instead have three "At Large" positions. It was also discussed that the Bylaws should make clear that the City Manager is an Ex-Officio/Non-Voting member of the BARB. Motion by Frantz, seconded by Denison to make the changes to the BARB bylaws as discussed. Motion passed via voice vote.

D. B.A.R.B. Budget

City Manager Grace shared with the BARB that the City's most recent budget proposal included an amended budget for the BARB of \$76,720 for FY 2020/2021 and \$76,600 for FY 2021/2022. Manager Grace also indicated that she had heard people indicate that they recall being told that the BARB had \$85,000 set aside for BARB uses, but that she and the City Treasurer do not see that recorded in the financials anywhere. However, Manager Grace noted that the City Commission could decide to vote to "commit" \$85,000 in funds for the BARB, if so desired, as the general consensus was that that was how much money was raised from past Thrill on the Hill events for use by the BARB.

E. Victory Park Improvements

Hanson and Manager Grace shared updates on planned improvements for Victory Park, including resurfacing of the basketball court, refreshed backboards and rims, and new nets.

F. Ravish Park Improvements

It was discussed that Ravish Park also needed a resurfacing of its basketball court, and plans were discussed to pursue that upgrade sometime in the new fiscal year, which begins in July of 2021.

G. Gazebo Park Improvements

The possibility of putting musical play equipment at the Gazebo Park was discussed.

H. Composting & Planters

Jason Stroud spoke about the possibility of a new composting program that could begin to take shape within the City of Buchanan. He shared ideas regarding how to get the program started and offered his help and support. He also discussed possible grant opportunities that could be utilized to help start and grow the program, including potential funding from the USDA. Mr. Stroud apologized for not having his full presentation with him, as his laptop had recently been stolen, but he indicated that he would try to replicate the presentation to make it available at a later date. Member discussion regarding the proposed compost program was positive and the general consensus was that the BARB would be supportive of hearing more about the possibility.

I. Meeting Schedule –

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of changing the BARB's meeting schedule. The consensus of the group was that after the BARB's first meeting of the next fiscal year, the BARB would switch meeting nights to the second Wednesday of each month instead of the third Wednesday of each month. It was also noted that all future meetings should be held at 6:30 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m. to better accommodate members' schedules.

J. Election of Officers

The election of officers was discussed and there was a consensus of the Board that Brittany Frantz should remain as Chair and Ashley Hanson should remain as Vice-Chair. However, it was noted that, pursuant to Article III Section 2 of the BARB Bylaws, the official election of officers should take place “annually at the first meeting in July, for a one year term.”

K. Review of 5-Year Recreation Plan

BARB members were reminded to review the City’s 5-Year Recreation Plan, which is posed on the homepage of the City’s website, www.cityofbuchanan.com, and asked to prepare comments for review. Members wanting paper copies may request said copies from City staff.

IX. Public Comment - Non-Agenda Items Only (3-minute limit)

Jennifer Popielski and Dan Vigansky expressed excitement and gratitude for being recommended to serve on the BARB. Existing BARB members welcomed them to the Board and thanked them for applying. Conversation was also had about having BARB members each get assigned to a particular park that they wanted to be in charge of monitoring and reporting back to the group about during regular meetings, and the consensus was that members should think about what park they wanted to be in charge of overseeing. There was also discussion about the many subcommittees of the BARB and the possibility of considering a re-structuring of how they were set up.

X. Executive Comments

Manager Grace mentioned that a PowerPoint presentation of possible upgrades to the playground equipment at various parks could be made available for review for members who were interested.

XI. Adjourn

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Chair Brittany Frantz

Co-Chair Ashley Hanson