



Parks & Recreation Office – 901 Montana Avenue

November 12, 2024

6:30

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Gary Stevenson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Wendy Taavola called roll.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Bob Bosk
Cathy Sjoquist
Gary Stevenson
Jay Bostwick
Anne Pfotenhaur
Roger Aho

ABSENT

Jeremy Cook

STAFF PRESENT

Wendy Taavola, Director

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve minutes of the October 1, 2024, meeting by Bostwick, Seconded by Sjoquist.

Voting Yea: ALL

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Taavola gave an update on the Native American Statue Enclosure project. Project still on track to be built in the Spring. Hand drawing has been submitted by Duane Kinneart. First estimate of pavilion will allow for more to be added to the site, such as a medicine wheel garden. Painting details will be added to the statues in the Spring as time ran out this year. Recognition plaque is planned as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Taavola talked about the proposed National Fitness Campaign, Fitness Court project in Van Cleve Park. National Fitness Campaign has offered a \$40,000 grant towards the funding of a Fitness Court in the park. The total of a project is approximately \$120,000. The group discussed other grant opportunities for the project. Director Taavola also discussed the timeline of the project which is that the construction must be done by the end of 2025. The elimination of special assessments which was voted for in the November election and how it may affect the Parks and Recreation budget next year was talked about. The Board decided to postpone this project and focus on existing structures. A motion was made to postpone this project for one year to allow for more time to obtain additional funding by Sjoquist, Seconded by Pfotenhaur.

Voting Yea: ALL

MOTION CARRIED

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Taavola updated the Board on the Michigan Arts Council grant that the department received. Sjoquist expressed interest in kiosks for the parks to inform the community.

Director Taavola discussed the departments work towards getting the ski hill ready for the winter. The Sno Kat has had all the maintenance done and is back up on the hill.

The Board vacancy was discussed. Director Taavola stated that the city clerk has not received a resignation letter from Jeremy Cook yet. The next applicant in line is John DeFiore.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Bob Bosk: initiated discussions on the following topics during the meeting:

1. **Boardwalk:** Bosk inquired about the city's plan to work on the Boardwalk. Director Taavola stated that the department has not had the manpower to start the project.
2. **Sports Park Bike Path:** Bosk inquired about the pathway expansion planned for the Sports Park and the opportunity to utilize the ski hill for the bike path.

Cathy Sjoquist: Sjoquist presented several items for the board's consideration during the meeting:

1. **Hiring Another Laborer:** Sjoquist inquired about the City Christmas tree.
2. **Boat Launch Kiosk:** Sjoquist raised a discussion about a boat launch payment kiosk.
3. **Fish Cleaning Station:** Sjoquist stated that the Fish Cleaning Station smell is offensive and a solution to the smell should be researched and implemented.
4. **Replacement of the Johnson Memorial Tree:** Sjoquist discussed replacing the memorial tree placed for Jack and Virginia Johnson which is dying. The tree should be replaced in the spring.

Anne Pfotenhauer: No comments.

Jay Bostwick: No comments.

Roger Aho: No comments.

Gary Stevenson: Stevenson initiated discussions on the following topics during the meeting:

1. **Pram Shack:** Stevenson inquired about the Pram Shack project. Director Taavola stated that engineered drawings have been obtained, Planning Commission has approved, and all that is left is getting the Builder's permit.
2. **Facility Needs:** Requested an inventory of facility needs.
3. **Harbor Update:** Stevenson expressed a need to inform the Harbor slip holders of the updates at the Harbor. A packet will be put together and sent out after the first of the year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, Pfotenhauer motioned; Jay Bostwick seconded to adjourned meeting at 7:22 pm.