



GLADSTONE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Parks & Recreation Office - 901 Montana Avenue

November 12, 2024

6:30 PM

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 486, notice is hereby given to the members of the City of Gladstone Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and to the general public that a Parks & Recreation Advisory Board will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 6:30 PM at Parks & Recreation Office - 901 Montana Avenue.

AGENDA

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Parks & Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes of 10-01-2024

OLD BUSINESS

2. Proposed Native American Statue Enclosure Project

NEW BUSINESS

3. National Fitness Campaign and Fitness Court Update

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

GLADSTONE**GLADSTONE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Parks & Recreation Office – 901 Montana Avenue

October 1, 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

ABSENT

Jeremy Cook

Anne Pfothenhauer

Roger Aho

STAFF PRESENT

Wendy Taavola, Director

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve minutes of the August 13, 2024, meeting by Sjoquist, Seconded by Bostwick.

Voting Yea: ALL

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Taavola gave an update on the Native American Statue Enclosure project. The project must be approved by the Planning Commission and County Building Inspector. Project detail is needed, including plans and licensed contractor. Cathy Sjoquist has spoken with Jim Baxter, a local contractor, regarding volunteering his time to the project.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board reviewed and discussed the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Proposed Bylaws and made recommendations. Director Taavola will make updates and return document for final approval and adoption. Bylaws must be submitted for approval by the City Commission.

A discussion was initiated by Bosk regarding the dates of the meetings and the conflict of elections being on Tuesdays. Several board members work at the election precincts each election. The board will revisit this topic when next year's meeting dates are set. A motion was made to change the date of the next meeting to 11-12-2024 by Stevenson, Seconded by Bostwick.

Voting Yea: ALL

MOTION CARRIED

Director Taavola informed the board that Jeremy Cook contacted her today regarding resigning his position on the Board, he stated that he will send a letter to the city clerk, Kim Berry.

The Board reviewed and discussed the Harbor Policy documents. Director Taavola will make updates and return document for final approval to post on the Harbor website. Sjoquist initiated a discussion regarding the sign at the boat launch that should be replaced because she has witnessed boaters launching without making payment. Director Taavola stated that she is researching an online payment and documentation system for the marina.

Director Taavola spoke about Don Poe, First Aid Lead, retiring after 40 years of service at the Ski Hill. The Board discussed options to honor Mr. Poe for his service.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

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

1. **Tree Removal at the Ski Hill:** Bosk inquired the tree removals on the west end of the parking lot of the Ski Hill. Director Taavola informed the group that the department is going to install an ice rink in that location if the weather allows this winter.
2. **Pickleball Court:** Bosk suggested a bike rack for the courts.
3. **South Bluff Road:** Remember for Spring cleanup.
4. **Electric Bicycle Use in Town:** Bosk inquired about an information campaign for E-bike users in town. He noted that they are becoming road hazards.

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

1. **City Christmas Tree:** Sjoquist inquired about the City Christmas tree.
2. **Staub:** Sjoquist raised a discussion about the contractor at the wastewater plant and whether they may have a grant program.
3. **Perennial Drive:** Sjoquist inquired about whether the perennial drive was advertised on the city website. Director Taavola stated that the website was updated with the information.
4. **Lakeshore Drive Freshwater Coral Sculpture:** Sjoquist discussed the removal of the sculpture on Lakeshore Drive.

Jay Bostwick: Bostwick initiated discussions on several topics:

1. **Downtown Days:** Bostwick thanked the department for assisting with the Downtown Days setup. He updated the Board on the success of the inaugural event.
2. **DDA:** Bostwick gave clarification on the DDA's annual budget.

Gary Stevenson: Stevenson expressed interest in several topics for discussion:

1. **Skatepark:** Stevenson inquired about inspection of the skatepark. Ms. Taavola shared information on how the skatepark inspections are handled.
2. **Gladstone Flags:** Stevenson suggested that the Recreation department take over the flag project for 10th Street.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Taavola updated the Board on the department's grant award from the Michigan Arts Council for a portable stage setup. Additionally, the grant application to the National Fitness Council has been submitted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, Gary Stevenson motioned; Jay Bostwick seconded to adjourned meeting at 8:21 pm.



Recreation Advisory Board

CITY OF GLADSTONE
1100 Delta Ave
Gladstone, MI 49837

Item 3.

Staff Report

Agenda Date: 11/12/2024
Department: Parks and Recreation
Presenter: Wendy Taavola

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: National Fitness Campaign – Fitness Court

BACKGROUND: During the August meeting, the Board was shown a video presentation from Fitness Court and the National Fitness Campaign. It was discussed as a potential upgrade to the equipment currently in place on the Jones Property. In further conversation with the National Fitness Campaign, the department was encouraged to fill out a non-binding grant application for approximately 1/3 of the cost of a Fitness Court in Gladstone. The National Fitness Campaign has selected our application for funding.

The Jones Property lease update has not been finalized as of this meeting. A space closer to the Kid's Kingdom parking lot has been proposed as a backup location.

The project would require the Fitness Court to be installed in the year 2025. This is a fast-moving project with no guarantee of additional funding.

FISCAL EFFECT: \$100,000 if no other grants are pursued. The department plans to seek additional grant funding.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: National Fitness Campaign Proposed Project Schedule.

RECOMMENDATION: The department is seeking input on whether we move forward with this project. A resolution from the City Commission is required. The department would also like to form a committee including a member or members of the Board to assist in seeking additional funding and local community support.