



PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES September 1, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Chair McCarthy called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm via Zoom Online meeting.

ROLL CALL

Chair Jodi McCarthy, Vice Chair Peter Struck, and Commissioners Don Cohen, Rory Westberg, Paul Burstein, Sara Marxen, and Ashley Hay were present for the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Councilmember Craig Reynolds was present.

Staff present were Jason Kintner, Alaine Sommargren, Ryan Daly, Paul West, Patrick Yamashita, Clint Morris, Sam Harb, and Raven Gillis.

APPEARANCES

No public appearances.

DEPARTMENT REPORT

Division Manager Ryan Daly reported on the following items:

- Summer Celebration! – Recap
- Boiler Building Stabilization
- Lincoln Landing
- Mercerdale Playground
- South Mercer Playfield Project
- A GREAT Summer!
- How are we combating drought conditions?

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the July 7, 2022 Regular Meeting were presented.

It was moved by Burstein; seconded by Westberg to:

Approve the minutes from the July 7, 2022 meeting

Passed: 7 – 0

2. Public Art Donation Concept – “The Gathering Stacks”

Ryan Daly introduced a potential donation to the City, and Berger Partnership Consultants presented the concept on behalf of the potential donor. Commission asked questions and provided input.

Commissioner Marxen left the meeting at 6:31pm, and had notified the Chair, Vice Chair and staff ahead of the meeting regarding a scheduling conflict.

3. Aubrey Davis Park Trail Safety Improvement Project 30% Design Revisions

Paul West presented. The Commission engaged in discussion and gave consensus to review the draft handoff memo along with revisions and corrections to the 30% Design at the October Regular Meeting.

It was moved by Struck; seconded by Westberg to:

Create a subcommittee consisting of Chair McCarthy, and Commissioners Cohen and Hay to work on the draft handoff memo to go to the City Council for the 30% Design of the Aubrey Davis Trail Safety Improvement Project.

Passed: 6 – 0

4. Bike Skills Area Update

Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations, and Alaine Sommargren, Deputy Public Works Director, provided an update.

OTHER BUSINESS

5. Planning & Meeting Schedule Update

Ryan Daly provided an update.

6. Commissioner Reports / Work Plan Update

Struck reported that it appears that the usage of the MI Library has increased over the summer.

Burstein recognized the Summer Celebration! Fireworks was a tremendous event, and noticed the next day Sam Harb, Parks Operations Manager, and his crew doing a fabulous job cleaning up after the event. Commissioner Burstein also noticed the Shakespeare in the Park events were well attended, coupled with great performances by Wooden O. And all the Mostly Music in the Park events were crowded, and the bands were well received by the audience. Burstein recognized Katie Herzog's efforts to book these bands and noted it was a great summer!

Hay agreed with Burstein in recognizing the Summer Celebration Fireworks show. Hay also shared that MIPA in partnership with the City of MI is hosting another blood drive at the MICEC on Thursday 10/6. Hay appreciated the staff's contributions towards the last successful blood drive and invited everyone to attend.

Chair McCarthy also agreed that Summer Celebration! was great and especially seeing people of all ages lined up for the Touch a Truck / Firetruck hose game. McCarthy also noted she appreciates driving by the Mercedale Train Park and seeing how much usage it is getting after being closed for so long for upgrades.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:10 PM