

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 30, 2007

The Special City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Muschell in the Council Chambers in the City Hall at 7:00 p.m. The proceedings were as follows:

Present: Council Members Charboneau, Lepp, Boardman, Tebo, Muschell and McCauslin
Absent: Councilwoman Riddle

Councilman Tebo moved to excuse Councilwoman Riddle from the meeting. Seconded by Councilman McCauslin. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Muschell stated that the purpose of the Special City Council meeting is to hold a Public Hearing for consideration of adoption of the new City of Cheboygan Recreation Plan.

Public Hearing

- **Consideration of Adoption of a new City of Cheboygan Recreation Plan**

Public Hearing portion of the meeting opened by Mayor Muschell.

City Manager McNeil acknowledged Recreation Commission Chairperson Sue Muschell and Commissioner Robert Spinella for their attendance in support of the new Recreation Plan. He explained that the Recreation Plan was developed for two reasons; first and foremost, many of the objectives that could be addressed by completion of the Recreation Plan would be fulfilled from items of the Strategic Plan. Additionally, to qualify for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants, the City must have an approved plan in place and that plan must be updated every five years. City Manager McNeil noted that the DNR established new criteria for Recreation Plans and therefore the Commission sought to address the new criteria by developing a whole new Plan. He referred to the Plan Outline for Completion of the new Recreation Plan, which includes review of internal and external influences and conditions, identifying issues based on internal and external review, identifying goals and objectives, and preparation of the plan document. City Manager McNeil noted that an administrative structure is included in the Plan based on DNR requirements, parks and recreational resources were reviewed and inventoried, and the planning process and public input is addressed. The public input that the Commission received and reviewed included a special portion of a citizen survey with regard to recreation facilities that was done in conjunction with the Strategic Plan. Additionally, the City was able to avail itself of the results of the Cheboygan County survey, and those two surveys substantiated each other in that the City survey indicated that Gordon Turner Park is the most used facility along with the various facilities in the Major City Park and the County survey indicated that municipal and township parks were most used along with access to lakes and rivers. With regard to new facilities, both surveys indicated the desire for an indoor swimming pool with walking paths and trailways also mentioned. With that information, the Recreation Commission proceeded through the work plan and developed goals and objectives. City Manager McNeil explained that the first goal pertains to continuing to hold parks and other public lands within the City in public hands in perpetuity for open spaces, and the second pertains to recreation programming to strengthen the relationship between the City and other program operators such as the Soccer and Little League Associations. He also referred to maintenance with the City of Cheboygan Recreation Center, commenting on the need to continue to maintain parks and recreation facilities in a safe manner, which includes a plan of action to review park equipment in conjunction with experts

available through the City's liability insurance provider and a detailed review of the Recreation Center to determine their maintenance needs. Additionally, the pathways issue and walkable community concept was clearly needed in the Plan and goals include developing pathways and walkways and improving sidewalks. With regard to the Major City Park, the Recreation Commission noted the importance of continuing to pursue improvements of the Park based on the Major City Park Master Plan. He noted the Major City Park probably has the most new development potential and highest use potential and includes a half mile of river frontage. City Manager McNeil also referred to enhancement of the Cheboygan County Fairgrounds for recreation, commenting that when public properties were inventoried and new opportunities considered, there is potential to expand or enhance recreation opportunities within the City. Additionally, establishment of a community indoor swimming pool is another objective in response to the top indicator within the surveys. The Recreation Commission recognized that this is a project that the City could probably not undertake on its own and therefore the goals and objectives refer to dialogue to start at the County level and begin in that manner toward the ability to establish a community indoor swimming pool. City Manager McNeil noted that the Appendixes include the Budget for the Recreation Department, Financial Allocation, a map of the parks, other information that is required based on the criteria established by the DNR for these plans, as well as the citizen surveys, the Major Park and Trail System Master Plans, and also the Resolutions adopted by the Recreation Commission and hopefully adopted by the Mayor and City Council. In summary, City Manager McNeil commented that the Recreation Commission adopted a top priority of reviewing the opportunities under the pathways and walkable community objectives, and that will be the first issue the Commission will be undertaking.

Commissioner Spinella introduced himself and thanked the City Council for appointing him to the Recreation Commission. He commented that the Major City Park is a very big project and moves the City more toward tourism and a recreational community. Commissioner Spinella noted that the favorable condition of the Major City Park is due primarily to the work of the volunteers through the Little League Association. He also commented on the work that needs to be done with the Recreation Center. Councilwoman Lepp recommended that the City express appreciation in some manner to the Little League Association volunteers for all the work done at the Major City Park. She also commented on the condition of the signage along the boardwalk at the City Beach. She explained that there were informational signs that told about the different wildlife and plants but the signage has been taken over by graffiti. She noticed the last time she walked out on the boardwalk, it appeared that City workers had painted over some of the profanity but it would be nice to be able to see that area. Councilwoman Lepp noted that when the water level was higher, there were more fowl and cattails which was very pleasing but that aesthetics is gone now and she is unsure if there is anything the City can do that would improve that area. Mayor Muschell agreed that is a very interesting boardwalk.

Mayor Muschell asked if there were any further comments. There being no further comments, the Public Hearing portion of the meeting was closed by Mayor Muschell.

Councilman Charboneau moved to adopt the Recreation Plan Resolution of Adoption for the new City of Cheboygan Recreation Plan. Seconded by Councilman Tebo. Mayor Muschell read the Recreation Plan Resolution of Adoption. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Councilman Tebo moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Seconded by Councilman Charboneau. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor James Muschell

City Clerk Kenneth J. Kwiatkowski

Councilman Scott McCauslin

Councilman Gerald R. Boardman

Councilwoman Winifred L. Riddle

Councilman Charles Charboneau

Councilman Leslie A. Tebo

Councilwoman Theo Lepp