

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**August 27, 2009**

The Special City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Sangster at 9:00 a.m. at the Cheboygan Area Public Library. The proceedings were as follows:

Present: Council Members Bronson, Lepp, Kopernik, Sangster, VanFleet, Jewell and Couture

Mayor Sangster stated that the purpose of the Special City Council meeting is to review the Conceptual Master Plans for the Major City Park.

Mr. Jack Rowan provided a presentation on behalf of the Cheboygan Economic Development Group regarding a proposed Cheboygan Sports, Entertainment and Community Development Center. He outlined the amenities of the proposed multi-purpose facility including various year-round athletic activities, concerts, recreational and sporting events, conference facilities, and overnight accommodations among many other possibilities. Mr. Rowan also commented on job creation, economic growth, increased business and tourism. He referred to a marketing study which will be available September 15, 2009 and a feasibility study beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>, as well as grant and matching funds. Additionally, Mr. Rowan commented on relocating the existing ball fields to an alternate location within the City. Discussion was held with regard to alternate sites for relocation of the ball fields, increased traffic generated by the various activities, and funding for the facility. Mr. Bud Darnell noted that the feasibility study would determine funding opportunities. Also discussed was a proposed completion date, admission fees and access to the facility. Mr. Jim Chamberlin provided a presentation regarding a proposed Great Lakes Native People's Cultural Center and Museum complex. He outlined the proposed plan to build and operate a history and culture museum complex to educate visitors of the history, custom and culture of the Indian Nations and Tribes surrounding the Great Lakes. Mr. Chamberlin commented on the proposed amenities including an amphitheater, displays of artifacts, a replica Indian Village on the River, canoe and fishing demonstrations, Native American arts and crafts displays, and an activity and entertainment area. Mr. Darnell mentioned the significant potential in these programs, commenting that more information would be available the first of the year. Discussion was held regarding financing. Mr. Dick Sanford commented on grants, company foundations, community resources and that the feasibility study would determine the type of options to be presented. Also discussed were concerns on adequate parking area and space to accommodate these facilities. Mr. Sanford commented on increased employment. Mr. Darnell commented on economic development opportunities.

A recess was held at 10:10 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

City Manager McNeil presented four Conceptual Master Plans for the Major City Park. He provided a PowerPoint presentation from the Michigan State University Department of Urban Design and Landscape Architecture which provides four separate concepts for consideration toward a new Major City Park Master Plan. City Manager McNeil outlined the MSU Small Town Design Initiative, including a year-round community-wide recreation and social outlet through public and private partnership, optimum use of the river frontage, linkage to downtown and existing and proposed trail systems, and recreational opportunities. City Manager McNeil explained the features of Concepts A, B, C and D. He noted that Concept A features the footbridge, relocating the Chamber of Commerce and Recreation Center, providing a community center, amphitheater, baseball diamonds, natural area, restaurant, café, canoe dockage, community garden, marina, open space, private business, playground

and picnic area, promenade, Tennis and Bocce ball courts, Volleyball/Badminton, and horse shoe pits among other amenities. City Manager McNeil referred to Concept B, indicating features are similar but includes a grand fountain and some elements moved, the Recreation Center and Ice Rink/Pavilion expansion, no marina, and elimination of one ball field if a camping facility is provided. City Manager McNeil commented that Concept C is primarily dominated by a community center similar to the Cheboygan Economic Development Group concept. He commented on acquisition of Consumers Power property to accommodate all the Concepts. City Manager McNeil noted changes in Washington Park and relocation of the Chamber of Commerce. Discussion was held regarding boat dockage, inland waterways, public restrooms, possible outdoor pool, miniature golf, go-cart track and second ice rink for public outdoor skating. City Manager McNeil outlined Concept D commenting on similar elements as the other Concepts but is reconfigured with more marina space, promenade, outdoor ice rink, playgrounds, amphitheater, and campground facilities among other features. City Manager McNeil noted that he is looking to Council to decide on the elements from each Concept for the final plan. Discussion was held on parking, green spaces, Riverfront usage and corporate sponsorship. Mr. Chamberlin requested the formation of a committee of Council, members of the Cheboygan Economic Development Group, and Museum Group to present a concept to MSU. Discussion was held regarding maintenance issues and expenses, limited seasonal use and revenue, and fewer jobs created with the City Plan in comparison to the year-round opportunities of the Cheboygan Economic Development Group concept. Also discussed was the importance of maintaining a relationship with the Little League Association. City Manager McNeil requested that Council provide a list the desired items from each of the Concepts and that the community provide input along with the Cheboygan Economic Development Group to work toward a final Concept.

**Adjournment**

Councilman Couture moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Seconded by Councilwoman Lepp. Motion carried unanimously.

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Mayor Richard B. Sangster

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City Clerk Kenneth J. Kwiatkowski

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Councilman Nicholas C. Couture

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Councilman William K. Jewell

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Councilwoman Theo Lepp

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Councilman Mark Bronson

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Councilman Michael J. VanFleet

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Councilman Roger Kopernik