

REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
April 17, 2019

The Regular Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Schulz at 6:05 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Present: Horrocks, Schulz, Stempky, Chastain and Clouser

Absent: Hayden, LaLonde, Parks & Recreation Director Hancock
and Sara Johnston, Council Liaison

Also Present: City Manager Eustice

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Clouser seconded by Horrocks to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

WELCOME, COMMISSIONER STEMPKY:

Chairperson Schulz formally welcomed Ms. Christy Stempky to the Commission and thanked her.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 16, 2019 MINUTES:

Motion by Horrocks seconded by Clouser to approve the January 16, 2019 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

• **Fishing Piers Public Comment and Project Update** – Chairperson Schulz commented that April 2, 2019 public comments were heard on the fishing piers that are to go in at Major City Park. Three different options were presented to the public for comment and public comments were due Sunday, April 14, so the comment period has closed. She then asked if City Manager Eustice has any update, report, final decision or comments to share with the Commission. City Manager Eustice said he does not know of any comments and thinks for the most part at the open meeting there was a lot of good conversation. There was one concern from a citizen about the fishing piers and where they are located because of where the fish are. This individual fishes down there a lot and says the fish are on the west bank and in the middle. In the area where the piers are there are no fish, although you can still cast out to the middle. This person was not necessarily against where the piers are going, but thought we could spend money a better way. Commissioner Chastain asked as to not doing the piers at all or doing them somewhere different. City Manager Eustice replied somewhere different, noting the piers are not capable of being located on the west side because there is such a steep slope. The idea behind putting the piers there is more of an aesthetic project to make that area look better, including extending the walking path through Major City Park to that area. Commissioner Clouser asked if it is in the area of the old sawdust pile. City Manager Eustice replied yes, off the water in that area. Commissioner Horrocks asked if the citizen thought there was no fish where we are going to put the piers. City Manager Eustice replied yes, noting he called it dead water and the fish do not go up near that bank. He went on to state the piers will be almost flush with the bank of the River. There were three different types of piers and the rendition we are going with is really flush against the bank. City Manager Eustice commented that following the meeting rendition “3” was selected, with wood cribs as those are the tightest to the bank. This will allow fishermen to still walk/wade in the

Regular Recreation Commission Meeting, April 17, 2019

water. He then added that Mr. Ken Pletcher was in favor of the third choice because he fishes down there almost every day.

Chairperson Schulz inquired if there is anything else that needs to be done. City Manager Eustice answered he does not think so. An inquiry was made as to whether the City can put the cribs in. City Manager Eustice replied no, it will be contracted out. Mr. Bill Sanders is helping with the rendition and thinks he will come up with the final plan for us to look at. In mid-August we should know whether we get the money or not; we did, however, get \$25,000.00 to do the planning and design from the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust and we wrote the grant to get the actual funding to do the project. It is likely we will not do the project until next spring. Commissioner Horrocks asked if the MDNR can help us. City Manager Eustice commented that Keith Cheli is, but there is an issue with the River bank itself because the bank itself is owned by the MDNR and is all part of the lock and dam operation and the City property is off water a little bit. We are going to have to do some type of easement or something between the MDNR and the City, so Mr. Cheli is very much involved in it as far as what we are doing there and how we can make it happen. He feels it is pretty definite that the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust will fund the project.

- **Development of By-Laws** – Chairperson Schulz stated now that we can expand our Commission members to cover the School District, she would like to work on establishing by-laws that would discuss how meetings operate, how we select Commissioners, etc. We have an Ordinance that determines a lot of what we do and then she would like to support that with by-laws. She has a copy of the Planning Commission By-Laws, which she was going to modify for the Commission's purposes, asking if anyone else is interested in working on this so it can be presented to the Commission for approval at the May meeting. Commissioners Horrocks and Stempky both volunteered.

RECREATION PLAN UPDATE:

Goal 1. Maintenance and Development

a) **Gordon Turner Park** – City Manager Eustice reported Gordon Turner Park is a major focus; it is probably our most used Park and it sits on Lake Huron so it's a critical thing to maintain and improve. The City is working on a grant in partnership with the County for all of Gordon Turner Park. The grant funding would come from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, but the City has to get control of the property north of the County Marina before we can work on the grant, which is a tough task. Basically the MDNR has approved the transfer of that property to the City and we would have to pay 10% of the appraisal price of that property. He thinks it will appraise in the \$300,000.00 range, but the appraisal has not been done yet. He has called Lansing every two or three weeks and he thinks they are waiting for the weather to get better to have an appraiser come up and look at it. Following that the MDNR will give the City a cost to transfer the property. Commissioner Horrocks asked if the City has always maintained this property. City Manager Eustice replied no there is really no maintenance on it, noting we maintain the boardwalk which really sits on State land that goes to the Crib Lighthouse and this piece is in behind the boardwalk. It has always been natural and about 35% of it is wetlands. City Manager Eustice went on to state it is his hope that when they appraise it they will consider the wetland portion as not having a lot of value. He hopes they do some creative appraisal techniques there because they originally told him prior to approving the transfer it probably would be \$8,000.00 to \$10,000.00 in fees and costs to transfer the property; however, when he got the letter of approval where they were going to transfer it to the City it said the City has to pay 10%

Regular Recreation Commission Meeting, April 17, 2019

of the appraisal price. Commissioner Clouser said if most of the property is in wetlands wouldn't the appraisal price come down. City Manager Eustice replied it is likely. Commissioner Stempky asked if the budget is affected by this piece of land and it does not affect the County at all in this project. City Manager Eustice said it doesn't, but we are going to partner with the County to write the grant and it is something that probably has never been done before, but the MEDC says they can do it. The County has to replace the gas tanks at the Marina, as the MDEQ is requiring them to replace the tanks. Commissioner Clouser commented not replace the tanks, but the lines going to the gas docks. City Manager Eustice said they are doing all of that. Commissioner Clouser said they are moving them to the north end of the marina. City Manager Eustice said the whole project is about \$800,000.00; the County contributed \$400,000.00 and got a matching grant from the Waterways Commission for \$400,000.00. The County needs to use a portion of this property; the City is going to get this property and we are going to let the County and the Waterways Commission use a portion of the property. Then the MEDC Regional Manager can fund this project up to \$750,000.00, which is the maximum without going to the MEDC Board, and we can use the \$800,000.00 that the County and Waterways Commission is contributing to this project as a match, giving us a dollar for dollar match. Someone asked what can be done to support this moving forward. City Manager Eustice answered until we get control of the piece of property we cannot do anything; we are dependent on the State. The City applied in September of last year to get the property transferred. Commissioner Horrocks inquired as to whether or not the State pays taxes on the property. City Manager Eustice replied they make a payment in lieu of taxes, which they set. Some State lands are not taxed. An inquiry was made as to the assessed value on the property. City Manager Eustice replied just under \$100,000.00, with true cash being about \$200,000.00. The MDNR paid \$300,000.00 for the property in 2010, which was probably fair market value at the time. The State was working on Ports of Call for Great Lakes cruise ships and they bought that property as a Port of Call, in addition to buying property in Charlevoix. The State was going to run cruise ship ports. Around 2014 the State killed that whole deal and did none of it. The City did not have any use for the property until the County project came up. City Manager Eustice went on to explain that the City Council has some reservations about paying \$30,000.00 for the property because the grant is not definite and not guaranteed. Chairperson Schulz asked if the General Fund can be reimbursed the \$30,000.00 from the \$750,000.00. City Manager Eustice answered that could happen, but he would spend all \$750,000.00 on the Park. Chairperson Schulz asked when it gets to the point of plans, etc. is that something the Commission would be involved in. City Manager Eustice replied absolutely. An inquiry was made as to size of the property the State owns. City Manager Eustice replied just under 5 acres (4.65 acres), with 450 feet of River front; there is no Lake frontage. Commissioner Horrocks asked if the City has to deed any portion of this property to the County. City Manager Eustice replied no, stating the County's tanks will not be on this property but the road to get to the tanks will be on this property, so the County needs an easement to get trucks out there to fill them.

Chairperson Schulz asked if Parks & Recreation Director Hancock has already taken out or purchased playground equipment for Gordon Turner Park. City Manager Eustice said swings have been replaced and the City tries to replace a piece of equipment. Parks & Recreation Director Hancock comes to the City Manager for approval as to what is to be taken out and what is to be replaced.

b) Recreation Passport Application for Major City Park - Chairperson Schulz asked if this Application was turned in on April 1. City Manager Eustice explained this Application was

Regular Recreation Commission Meeting, April 17, 2019

submitted through the portal and unlike the Recreation Plan where a PDF file could be submitted. The Recreation Passport Application had to be filled out on-line. He took the Application document, copied and pasted it into the template. The plans and drawings and supporting documents could be uploaded. City Manager Eustice informed the Commission he submitted the Capital Improvement Plan because the Recreation Plan has not been approved yet, and you have to submit one of these. They will let us know next week on the timeframe to submit additional information. Chairperson Schulz asked if we got a drawing of the baseball fields and trail. City Manager Eustice noted he submitted the river walk trail drawing that Keith Cheli did and he also submitted all the baseball fields with dimensions from a previous application. He also talked with Mr. Bill Sanders about it and he said when we get the open window and they are requesting something different, he will help us with that. Chairperson Schulz asked if the City Manager will be told what else needs to be submitted next week, wondering if they are not looking at us if we are told at that time, also. City Manager Eustice said if they are going to consider our Application they do a site visit in June. This is a long process and we don't know if we get the grant funding until December; doing a site visit does not necessarily guarantee we are going to get the grant. Chairperson Schulz then asked if they will look at the audit/worksheet that shows all the signage and maintenance agreements, as to who is providing the Park, who is maintaining the Park and who is funding the Park. If they have funded other things in the past we need to have that information, also. If we get a call we need to make sure there is signage, asking if Festival Square has signage as to who it was funded by. City Manager Eustice said it does not have signage. He noted that pictures of plaques had to be submitted for the Recreation Plan; it was not done immediately but he did get an e-mail during the review and there were three things they needed, so he submitted them. He then reviewed the location of plaques at the bathroom at Gordon Turner Park, fishing piers at Major City Park, footbridge, etc.

c) **Felix Merchant Park** – Chairperson Schulz informed the Commission she was looking at playground grants to do something in Felix Merchant Park, which is pretty much an open field. The Park is named for the first young man from Cheboygan County to have died in WWII. She feels we need to do something special with this Park and the grant she was looking at was about \$100,000.00 that Disney offers for play areas and they want to fund either ethnically diverse and/or low income parks and programs, which we would qualify for. This is due in April. She will keep an eye out for grants in the trail meetings because this Park is in the vicinity of the new State Park to Downtown Bike Path we are doing through the Duncan Bay Preserve. In the trail meeting they talked about doing something that would attract bikers into the Park, so having a fix-it station and some type of pavilion and shelter and a tike track in a circle for kids to learn to ride bikes. She noted there are no sidewalks in that neighborhood for kids to ride bikes. This will definitely be in our next five-year plan and it also could be made more of a priority. A short discussion held on the location of this Park. Parks & Recreation Director Hancock did go out to the Park and do some measuring to see what we have to work with.

Goal 2. Programs

Update from Christy and Emily on our program database; recommend that rec programs replace 'no late registration' policies with 'new resident policies' – Chairperson Schulz stated that Mr., Dick Cartmill brought us some catalogues of programs for all ages from Waterford Township. Our ultimate goal is to see something like this included in with the City Review. She has looked at a lot of program catalogues, and some are posted on-line, as well. Mr. Cartmill commented on the program catalogue noting it was mailed to every resident in the Township.

Regular Recreation Commission Meeting, April 17, 2019

They charged a non-resident fee to anybody outside the Township, which is reflected in there also. Chairperson Schulz commented we do not charge for anything that is offered by the City right now and all of the programs that are offered are through individual non-profits, or the library or senior center that would have their own fee structures. We are not really looking at funding anything; we are just looking at communicating it and coordinating it. Christy Stempky and Emily Clare are getting information together to put into a database so that we can identify where we can provide programs during the calendar year when there are lulls and what age groups are missing opportunities and what other things we can enhance. Chairperson Schulz went on to state we already know a big area is early childhood, so right now there are a couple of playgroups that happen but other than that what we offer for young families is dwindling. With all of the redevelopment efforts this is a goal to make it a more attractive place for young families and we are kind of going in the opposite direction. Comments were mentioned as to the library and Opera House, who offer programs. Chairperson Schulz commented there is not a one-stop place to look at all that is available, which is what the Commission is hoping to provide. The goal is to get something into print by August before school starts. They are hoping to have this quarterly or at least twice a year to start. Also, when the first one is presented hopefully more people will want their information in the program catalogue. A lot of the groups that offer programs have a no late registration policy; but replace that language with a new resident policy instead of no late registration because we are talking about applying to become a Coast Guard City. For any new families that language of no late registration can be a little unwelcoming, but if we have a new resident policy (like they have in place for high school sports) will be more welcoming and help those kids become part of a team faster.

Goal 3. Trail Town Master Plan

Trail Committee update on 'Pure Michigan' Designated Trail Application; website with links to trail maps – Chairperson Schulz said part of the Recreation Plan was to work with the Trails Committee to get designated as a Trails Town so they have been having bi-weekly meetings. She explained this is an application that is presented by Pure Michigan and is an initiative of the MEDC. When we started out we had _____, designated land trail, designated water trail and become a Trails Town all at once. The requirements for these applications to get designated are quite lengthy and while we know how wonderful our waterway is for potential visitors to the area there is a lot that needs to be done in terms of helping people not only physically navigate the waterway but also navigate the communities and amenities that we have in the communities, i.e. rentals, education, etc. She went on to state they scaled back their goals and they are applying to have a designated land trail and it will be from the North Central State Trail from the south end of Mullett Township to the north end of Mackinaw Township and we are calling it the Mullett to Mackinaw Trail. This group meets again tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.; if we can get this section of the Trail designated as the Mullett to Mackinaw Trail then any municipality that it runs through is eligible to apply to become a designated Trails Town. Chairperson Schulz commented the municipalities can apply at the same time and this will be an important conversation to have at tomorrow's meeting. Commissioner Chastain asked for an explanation of the Trails Town designation. Chairperson Schulz answered that when someone is planning trail tourism to come to Michigan, Cheboygan would be listed as a destination because we will have demonstrated that we have amenities that make us a Trails Town. Commissioner Chastain asked about funding available. Chairperson Schulz replied funding is for marketing but with Community for a Lifetime, anytime that you do one of these assessments and go through all the requirements and demonstrate what you have and identify things to work on,

Regular Recreation Commission Meeting, April 17, 2019

the potential grants funders like _____ and that you have identified _____. It is her understanding that there is not any grand funding directly tied to it. City Manager Eustice commented that is correct, but it could open up some funding sources because we are a designated Trails Town. Commissioner Stempky asked on getting points for the grant application by having this designation. Chairperson Schulz replied DNR grants especially, but all grants, look at each section and get scored. An inquiry was made regarding the recent meeting with Aloha Township. Chairperson Schulz stated it was quite lovely, as was Beaugrand Township. Beaugrand Township did have concerns with the trails and we got our letter of support from them last Wednesday. She thanked Beaugrand Township for setting aside those concerns in the best interest of the trail and the economic development of the whole area. Commissioner Horrocks asked if the East Trail can be included at some time. Chairperson Schulz stated they can and when they do avocation to be a Trail Town they will look at Aloha and the U.S. Heritage Route and try and pull all of that together as one big reason to come to Cheboygan. She went on to state Mullett Township was very welcoming and their board was very excited about recreational opportunities and were really open with their conversation because they have two _____ related trail initiatives they are working on. Topinabee, on the west side of Mullett Township, has that really lovely park with beachfront access but they have issues with rainwater, so they need some type of stormwater plan and also parking. That park is idyllic when it comes to a trailhead and it does get used a lot and people are parking right on the highway, so Mullett Township is really interested in coming up with a plan to improve that. There is also some very excited plans for the Boy Scout Camp, i.e. removal docks and ramps for accessibility for kayaks and paddleboards because the bank is quite steep. There is a short trail/footpath through the woods and they would like to clear that a little more, extend it and make it more of a trail.

Commissioner Stempky commented on a dog park. Chairperson Schulz stated in the 2018 Community Survey the lack of a dog park was mentioned, going on to state that since Cheboygan does not have a dog park visitors to the area often use the football field for their dogs, as well as Gordon Turner Park. Mr. Cartmill stated in Benton Township there is one trail behind the town hall and there is a container to pick up dog waste. Chairperson Schulz questioned if anything is available at the Trailhead. Someone asked if the east trail goes through Benton Township. City Manager Eustice replied yes. Commissioner Horrocks said the Pigeon River Forest (150,000 acres) is putting a lot of emphasis on trails, walking trails, horse trails and bike trails now and a lot of that is in Cheboygan County. The question was raised as to whether or not Wolverine has its own recreation plan, with the City Manager noting it is not in the County Plan. Commissioner Horrocks mentioned that in the Pigeon River Forest they are putting fishing piers on the lakes, but they are having problems with kayakers not using the pathways to the lakes that are designated which is causing erosion. He went on to state that Cheboygan County is the only County that will not eliminate four-wheelers from County roads. Otsego County has disbanded all four-wheelers, but Cheboygan has the bigger part of the Pigeon River. Commissioner Horrocks went on to state there are two different groups coming in this summer to do their big national walking/running race so they have eliminated the car part of it to stay to the outside of the Pigeon. Chairperson Schulz asked what the walks or races are. Commissioner Horrocks stated he will get them for Chairperson Schulz, noting in June Mr. Scott Wickman, who manages the Pigeon River Forest will be talking with the County and perhaps Chairperson Schulz would like to attend. He may also put her in touch with Mr. Wickman. A question was asked of Commissioner Horrocks as to if there is any money for reclamation for ATVs that tear up the trails. Commissioner Horrocks

Regular Recreation Commission Meeting, April 17, 2019

explained that the DNR Parks & Recreation has taken over the activity of making sure the trails are kept up, but Mr. Wickman has all different groups such as football who come in to train. The trails people are helping keep the trails clean and are widening them this year. There are several groups that come and donate their weekend to stay and work on it, noting this is something we might want to look into when we start developing ours. There is also an AmeriCorps group. Chairperson Schulz stated the different races in the area help support the applications being done. Commissioner Stempky commented a lot of the trails can actually connect all the way to Cheboygan in certain ways, noting Kohler Township has trails out to the Pigeon River with connection to the trail along Mullett Lake, and feels the potential is there. Commissioner Horrocks also recommended that Chairperson Schulz look at the bylaws for the Pigeon River.

Goal 4. Recreation Authority

Gauge interest of other entities in participating; educate community and potential stakeholders with models of best practice in other communities – Chairperson Schulz explained that this goal is to establish a recreation authority to cover the Cheboygan Area School District, which involves creating a board with two appointees from each of the municipalities within the School District, of which there are eight – seven Townships and the City, making it a 16-member board. She went on to state there is not a lot we can do right now, but going around for this trails designation has been a very good experience in talking with four townships. Through the trails they have gone out and people know they are interested in revitalizing the _____ through Parks & Recreation. Chairperson Schulz commented the key message, any time someone asks her about it, is the potential to make Cheboygan a nice place to live. If we have time to attract and retain people, including young families we have to offer quality of life. Including older people, people want to have ways to connect and exercise and have things to do. Funding unfortunately through the schools is not there and municipal money is very limited, so it comes to recreation authorities. She has the PowerPoint presentation from Mr. Burkholder, which she has permission to share, and would like to forward it to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Right now they are focusing on the trail application and program guide, so maybe after these are complete they can start maybe looking at that a little bit more formally.

Trail Application - City Manager Eustice commented the trail group has been to five townships if Mr. Conboy went to Mackinaw Township on Monday. Chairperson Schulz stated they will have to look at a timeline for that, adding she talked to the Acting Superintendent of the School Board and she was supposed to be on the Agenda for April 22 and she is not. We now have to worry about getting everything done to go to Council before we submit this, because we have to have a resolution from Council as to the applying municipality. Chairperson Schulz clarified they only need the municipalities the trail runs through which is Mullett, Inverness, Cheboygan, Beaugrand and Mackinaw. From the four townships we have to have a letter of support and if we get Mackinaw this week we will have all of them. She then inquired as to being on the agenda for the May 7 City Council meeting for a resolution to approve the trail application, noting it would be nice not to submit it on the day it is due.

Chairperson Comments for Next Meeting:

Chairperson Schulz stated for the next meeting there will be by-laws to review and the PowerPoint on recreation authorities. In the meantime, the Commission can Google the Alpena Recreation Authority for a list of things they have funded and they only passed .5 mills and had \$500,000.00 to work with. Their list includes community gardens, special needs programs,

Regular Recreation Commission Meeting, April 17, 2019

equestrian, high school sports, art classes, etc. A brief discussion held on our request being only the Cheboygan School District because a county-wide effort would be problematic. Alpena only has one school district.

UPCOMING DATES:

Chairperson Schulz reviewed the following with the Commission:

April 18 9am Trail Sub-Committee Meeting (going through the draft of the application for the designated trails)

April 22 6:30pm Community Forum at Library (this pertains to the Redevelopment Ready Community Forum, if anyone wants to talk about as a priority such as parks, recreation, trails recreation authority – there is no survey this time, only an open forum)

May 7pm City Council Meeting (trail resolution)

May 13 1pm Opportunity Zone Information Session in Grayling (Chairperson Schulz is attending which is the new version of New Market Tax Credit)

May 15 6pm Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting

June 1 Pure Michigan Trail and Trail Town Applications Due

STAFF REPORT:

Chairperson Schulz inquired as to a staff report from Director Hancock. City Manager Eustice replied there is none, noting Director Hancock is at a baseball game in Alpena. He then stated Director Hancock gave him the article that was in the *Tribune* on Positive Programs they do at the Recreation Center. The City is buying pizza on Saturday night and we are getting donations from various clubs and individuals. There are about 20 kids that attend.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

Terms on Commission - Commissioner Horrocks asked if the Commission is going to try and keep him on the Commission now that he lives in Benton Township. Commissioner Chastain asked if there is currently an opening on the Commission. City Manager Eustice replied no, but Commissioner Horrocks' term expires July 1, as does Commissioner Hayden, which are possible openings unless they want to continue. Commissioner Horrocks commended City Manager Eustice for putting a good young energetic Commission together, which has been long needed. He also commended Chairperson Schulz. Chairperson Schulz asked Commissioner Horrocks if he wants to be reappointed, which will go through the Mayor. Commissioner Horrocks said he would like to stay on, but when someone is found to have a lot more energy than he has he would not be against stepping back and letting someone else take over. A brief discussion was held. Commissioner Horrocks then commented he has always thought of how his company could put on an auction downtown, where he would pay rent, donate his auction company time and give the proceeds to the City.

Green Community – Commissioner Stempky inquired about adding a green community to the list if it would help with our resource recovery effort and maybe cleaning up our areas of solid waste with more recyclables potential, i.e. working with our partners in Emmet County who are doing a good job of processing recycling themselves. She went on to state she found out today they sell recycled products to the Tissue Plant for all of their products. Maybe we can get Cheboygan on board with recycling due to the fact that we have a business downtown who buys those products back. Comments were made that there is a County managed recycling program in Cheboygan, not curbside. A brief discussion was held. Commissioner Horrocks commented the

Regular Recreation Commission Meeting, April 17, 2019

dump station in Onaway was sold to the Canadian Government and they are hauling truckload after truckload of Canadian garbage and they also bought out Republic in Cheboygan. Commissioner Stempky said she would like to see the efforts of the City and County working together because right now at the State levels the funds got really filled for the plans of revision of solid waste plans and material management processing and because of all the new people in office that is not moving forward yet. If we could get ourselves in line with having a recycling plan/sitting on top of revising our plan so that we can be at the top of the counties that are going in for it. Commissioner Stempky went on to state where we are located it probably should be a priority of our area to be greener overall.

Handicap or Mentally Challenged Riding Program - Commissioner Horrocks asked if our Plan contains the handicap or mentally challenged riding program that they have at the Fairgrounds. Commissioner Stempky replied she has the occupational therapy but does not have a contract for it. Commissioner Horrocks suggested she contact Leigh Ann Theunick, 4-H, at the County Building.

Downtown Banners & Lighting - Chairperson Schulz said she attended a DDA meeting last month and there was conversation about the banners that can be hung from the lampposts on Main Street and buying new lighting and what can be done to improve the looks of the lights downtown. She suggested that Ms. Emily Eckhart take back to the DDA that in Elk Rapids for the fall season they get banners made of all of the varsity athletes for fall sports and they hang those down their main street for the homecoming parade and it is really cool. Ms. Eckhart asked who funds it. Chairperson Schulz stated she does not know. Ms. Eckhart wondered if the football boosters could pay for them. Chairperson Schulz stated they pay for all the player fees for the kids, which is \$75.00 per kid raised by a golf outing fundraiser. The discussion did not sound favorable about getting attachments to hang the banners, perhaps a lot of barriers with those.

Opening up Locust Street - Commissioner Clouser asked if opening up Locust Street again is in the plans. City Manager Eustice replied not necessarily. It has always been a thought because the road is still there, but there is no plan at this point to open it back up. He thinks if the school wanted it opened back up the City would look at it. Chief Jones would like to see it opened back up for access for emergency vehicles (fire trucks, police cars and ambulances). Commissioner Clouser said on Friday night football night getting out of the Western Avenue field would this not help alleviate some of the traffic coming down Locust Street to Main Street. Someone asked for the reason it was closed to begin with. City Manager Eustice said he did not know, but believes it was closed in the 1970's. Commissioner Clouser commented the railroad was using that as the turnaround station/switching station. City Manager Eustice said he would investigate the closing. Commissioner Clouser commented his church is building off the north end of Court Street. Someone asked if there is vacant land on which to build. City Manager Eustice replied not really with Commissioner Clouser commenting there are about 4 acres his church wants to get rid of (long and narrow) and where it is at nobody is going to buy it until that road is open. Commissioner Chastain commented it could make a great dog park.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

Regular Recreation Commission Meeting, April 17, 2019

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Horrocks seconded by Chastain to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Catherine (Kate) Schulz, Chairperson