

REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
May 15, 2019

The Regular Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Schulz at 6:01 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Present: Horrocks, Schulz, Stempky, LaLonde, Chastain, and Clouser
Also Present: City Manager Eustice

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Horrocks seconded by LaLonde to approve the Agenda with the addition of the City's 130th birthday baseball game under Commission Comments. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 17, 2019 MINUTES:

Motion by Horrocks seconded by Clouser to approve the April 17, 2019 Parks & Recreation Commission meeting minutes as corrected by Chairperson Schulz. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Fishing Piers Public Comment and Project Update** – Chairperson Schulz commented they are waiting to hear about the easement related to the fishing pier project, asking if anything has been done to address the easement issue because part of the project is on DNR property and part of it is on City property. City Manager Eustice replied he is working with Dave Stempky and Keith Cheli from the DNR; Mr. Cheli wants to transfer the property to the City but Mr. Stempky thinks that is going to be too long of a process so he is working with Lansing on giving us an easement to the property; the State still owning and maintaining it. City Manager Eustice then stated he is working with Caroline Keson on a couple aspects of the grant, adding he thinks the grant is due July 31, 2019. Chairperson Schulz asked City Manager Eustice to let the Commission know if there is something the Commission can do to move it along.
- **Development of By-Laws** – Chairperson Schulz stated the sub-committee has not met. She questioned if the Commission terms are two years. City Manager Eustice answered correct. Chairperson Schulz then said the Planning Commission By-Laws given her as an example states in “Removal” that if you miss three regular scheduled monthly meetings you will be excused from the Commission. The Parks & Recreation Commission could keep it at three total and say if you miss four or five total in a calendar year or three consecutive meetings that the Commission can ask for the Commissioner’s resignation. She then asked for feedback from the Commission as to what they think is fair and what is achievable from them as volunteers to come to the meetings. Chairperson Schulz commented if someone is consistently not showing up there is no way to ask for their resignation because it is not spelled out in the Ordinance so having by-laws will allow us to be able to manage it. She added she feels that having missed multiple consecutive meetings is kind of an early warning sign. A brief discussion held. Commissioner Horrocks suggested adding unexcused to the language. The Commission agreed on three unexcused total in a calendar year and not address consecutive absences.

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Chairperson Schulz then asked the Commission if the meetings will be kept at 6:00 p.m. in perpetuity or are they going back to 7:00 p.m. Commissioner LaLonde said he would like the meetings in the morning. A brief discussion held. City Manager Eustice mentioned morning meetings are the biggest knock against the County Commissioner meetings. Commissioner LaLonde then recommended the meetings remain at 6:00 p.m.

Chairperson Schulz then discussed “Officers” noting City Manager Eustice is the Secretary of the Commission, asking if the Commission would like to see a Secretary from the Commission. City Manager Eustice said he will stay as Secretary.

Chairperson Schulz went on to state the Commission does not handle any type of contract or loans but we do have to identify/reference the grant application process. The Commission will never have to vote on the expenditure of money; only make recommendations to the City Council. The Commission will never handle any money. Commissioner Horrocks stated this Commission is more of an advisory board to the City and we might someday want to look at putting that “as an advisory” so people do not get the idea they can control what is going on and headlock with the Chairperson because we are an advisory commission. The Commission will have a draft of the By-Laws by the June 19, 2019 Commission meeting for review.

City Manager Eustice clarified the issue of spending money, noting he can spend money. The Commission can make a recommendation for the Parks & Recreation Department and he can spend money if he thinks it is valuable. Commissioner Horrocks inquired as to a set amount the City Manager can spend. City Manager Eustice replied he can spend up to \$5,000.00 on a project approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission without taking it to Council. He went on to state that rarely happens but it is an option. Chairperson Schulz noted monies for the Parks & Recreation Commission comes out of the General Fund. Commissioner Horrocks noted the City Manager does not have to get authority from the Commission to spend \$5,000.00. City Manager Eustice clarified he does not need a motion from the Commission to spend for example \$2,500.00 if the City so chooses.

RECREATION PLAN UPDATE:

Goal 1. Maintenance and Development

a) **Gordon Turner Park** – Chairperson Schulz asked for an update from City Manager Eustice on the State property next to Gordon Turner Park. City Manager Eustice reported the property transfer is still open; he submitted the application to get the DNR property north of the County Marina in October 2018 and they still have not made a decision. It is a long process. The City is trying to obtain that property to work with the MEDC on a grant funding opportunity for the entire Park, but we need the DNR property first. The County is waiting because they need an easement across that property.

b) **Recreation Passport Application for Major City Park** - Chairperson Schulz asked if City Manager Eustice has any communication on this Application. City Manager Eustice reported he has had communication with Lindsay Ross in Lansing and he needed to send in additional information last week. They have not approved our Recreation Plan officially yet. He went on to state when he submitted the Application, the Capital Improvement Plan had to be submitted in three sections so he downloaded that to her. If the Recreation Plan is not approved you need a Capital Improvement Plan to go with the Application and this was submitted through the portal.

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He has had conversations with Lansing and the State has gone across the board to this software option where you have to download information in sections/pieces into the portal. City Manager Eustice explained how cumbersome it was to submit the Passport Application. Chairperson Schulz asked if the State is waiting on something or they did not like a part of our five-year plan. Why is the five-year plan not approved yet? City Manager Eustice replied he had to submit the plaque reports because the State deleted them. Chairperson Schulz asked if what was put together was not sufficient. City Manager Eustice said that is right; there was a waterways master plan component that they would have liked to have had. They sent him a copy of Grand Haven's but nowhere in the application did it state this. Chairperson Schulz then said if we are going to apply for a water trail designation that is something we can work on in the coming year. City Manager Eustice commented both the Recreation Plan and Recreation Passport Application are still out and thinks they will approve the Recreation Plan shortly.

Goal 2. Programs

Update from Commissioner Stempky on Program Database – Commissioner Stempky
INAUDIBLE – SOMETHING ABOUT PHONE NUMBERS – Commissioner Schulz mentioned Little League contact information.

TAPE STOPPED

Chairperson Schulz informed the Commission that Mr. Cartmill has been showing people the catalog of programs that we would like to eventually achieve and there has been a lot of interest; people seem excited about the idea. Commissioner Chastain asked for the date of achieving this. Chairperson Schulz answered August, around the time that school starts and when the City Review fall edition comes out. It is flexible because it is a lot of work. COMMISSIONER STEMPKY INAUDIBLE

Chairperson Schulz said getting together what we can by August, getting it in print and posted online where people see it will hopefully be something where people are bringing us the information.

Goal 3. Trail Town Master Plan

Trail Sub-Committee – Chairperson Schulz asked City Manager Eustice if the Trail Sub-Committee will continue to meet. City Manager Eustice replied yes, but maybe not as frequently as they have been. From what he understands to continue the Trail Town Designation, once we are a designated Trail Town, we have to have a standing committee to keep that designation. Chairperson Schulz said all the things Connie Reager is proposing are all trail related and she does not want to talk about them at tonight's meeting and really sees them as sub-committee issues and not Commission. She then asked City Manager Eustice if a Trail Sub-Committee meeting could be scheduled after this week, noting the sub-committee likes mornings and that is fine with her. City Manager Eustice will schedule the Trail Sub-Committee meeting and let the members know.

Chairperson Schulz asked City Manager Eustice if we are on schedule to submit the Trail Town Application by June 1. City Manager Eustice replied yes. Chairperson Schulz stated City Manager Eustice will work on the forms and she will contact the Board Office to see if we can get our Resolution of Support for the supplemental curriculum, asking the City Manager if that is all

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that is missing. City Manager Eustice responded yes. Chairperson Schulz commented the Trail Sub-Committee can then start addressing water trails.

STAFF REPORT:

City Manager Eustice replied he has nothing to add, noting he does not have anything from Parks & Recreation Director Hancock who was unable to attend.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

City's 130th Birthday Baseball Game— Commissioner Stempky informed the Commission that on August 24 they want basically afternoon activities around Major City Park depending on how much interest there is with teams and perhaps have two fields going and activities on one of the other side fields – old fashioned games like egg and spoon and sack races. The Little League will be approached about running a concession stand for their own personal fund raising. She went on to state there is also the idea of a dunk tank for a small fundraiser. They are just trying to celebrate Cheboygan on their 130th year as a City, as it formally became a City in 1889. Chairperson Schulz asked if Commissioner Stempky wants the Commission to work on something specifically. Commissioner Stempky replied there is no specific action plan; she and Emily Eckhart are getting the _____ list going and _____ is going to get them a form, but otherwise they are going to get it out there for people to get teams together to then schedule a community tournament. The idea is that the Shanty Boys would then play their opponent at 7:00 p.m. and have a Walmart parking lot premiere fireworks kind of thing at the end of the baseball game. Starting at 7:00 p.m. there will be a pub crawl happening. Commissioner Stempky said starting at 2:00 p.m. they are trying to get people to go back and forth from Major City Park to downtown with events going on both sides. She then asked if the Commission is open to supporting this event and being a part of it, i.e. fill up some potential volunteer _____ or small fee _____ kind of thing. Kind of do it like family backyard games. Obviously BYOB will be at Major City Park because it is allowed.

Commissioner Horrocks commented on doing a canoe race, like they do on the Ausable, up the River and end it at Washington Park. It seems to him it would draw people into town. Commissioner Clouser then mentioned the Wanigan Race. Commissioner Horrocks said if they wanted to do the canoe race, he would go out and raise prize money to bring racers in; non-professional and professional racer categories. They could also have kayakers to bring other activities to the Park.

Commissioner Stempky noted the next meeting for the Birthday event is May 23 at 8:00 a.m. if anyone wants to participate in the planning.

Water Street Parking Lot - Commissioner Horrocks said he spoke to someone in the Water Street parking lot and introduced himself as being on the Parks & Recreation Commission. The person commented that something needs to be done with it because it is blah, mentioning there are boats that come in and it needs to be inviting. City Manager Eustice commented this is a priority in the DDA/Main Street Plan to develop it. There are certain people that think we should develop it commercially, which it can be, but then there are other people that want it to be a public place, but it needs to have more green space. He does not think we need to eliminate the parking completely, because some parking is a necessity. We have a plan and have written grants and the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council has helped us write grants for that area, but we have

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not gotten any yet. This is something the DDA/Main Street can probably partially fund if we can get some grant funding to improve the area. City Manager Eustice went on to state when he came to work at the City in 2001 he was told that the Water Street Parking Lot could not be developed commercially or be sold because it was gifted from the State of Michigan to the City of Cheboygan; other than a small piece where the range light sits, which is federal property. For a long time the citizens of Cheboygan asked often why we have an asphalt parking lot on the River. City Manager Eustice went on to say this property is probably the best commercial piece of property on the Cheboygan River and Indian River. He then explained there is a short section between BK&C and the tower that the State did donate to the City and if we try to do anything with it other than leave it a park, it reverts back to the State. The rest of the property the City bought back in the 1940's and 1950's and it could be sold for commercial development. The consensus is to keep it as public space, but we just need to improve it. We need to put in green space, rain gardens, picnic tables, bushes, etc. and spruce it up a little bit. It is really a DDA project at this point.

Commissioner Horrocks asked if Plaunt rents his space from the City. City Manager Eustice replied yes, the parking.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ms. Emily Eckhart – HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SHE WAS TRYING TO SAY

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Chairperson Schulz informed the Commission their next meeting date is June 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. and there will be a draft of By-Laws for review and a motion to approve.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Horrocks seconded by Chastain to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Catherine (Kate) Schulz, Chairperson