

**CITY OF CHEBOYGAN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES - MARCH 2021 MEETING (virtual)**

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 6pm

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Call to Order at 6:01pm by Chairperson Commissioner Kate Schulz

Roll Call: Martin, present; Stempky, present; Clouser, present; Schulz, present; Eustice (Tony), present; Rieger, absent; Lalonde, excused. Schulz requested motion to approve absences of Commissioner Rieger, Lalonde, and Eustice. Stempky made motion with support from Martin. All in favor and none opposed. Absences are excused. Rieger joined the call after the first committee report.

Approval of Agenda. Schulz explained the committee format. Motion from Stempky with support from Martin.

Committee Reports

1. Maintenance & Development: Schulz reported at the last meeting (informal) the need to Assess Recreational Assets & Prioritize Projects was discussed because there are some large projects and many smaller, so to have a streamlined effort coordinated with other city commissions, it would be helpful if the Rec Commission prioritized. Christy stated she would be interested in helping with this committee.
2. Program Coordination. Commissioner Eustice had volunteered to lead this committee to coordinate recreational programs including sports, arts, education etc. Kate said she has looked at Rec Registration service providers so that the city could develop a website with portal to register for any recreation program in Cheboygan. Kate offered to go through the different platforms available and narrow it down to three for the commission to review. Dale said that he will be willing to help out.
3. Trailtown Master Plan. Schulz stated that there was not a lot of action at the trail meeting, but the Coast Guard festival was discussed. Schulz added that the Coast Guard celebration conversation initiated at the Trail Committee meeting but she doesn't think Trails Committee is the best place for that group/discussion to stay forever. Kate asked Tom if 1) the application for Coast Guard City designation was submitted and/or approved and 2) if anything has happened to establish a committee to serve Coast Guard families in the community in perpetuity. Tom reported that the application was denied, he just found out on Monday. Coast Guard would like to see the community do more outreach to Coast Guard families inviting service people to Thanksgiving etc. and we do not do much of that here. Tom recognizes that the Coast Guard does a lot for

Cheboygan, but Cheboygan does not do so much for the Coast Guard; they would like to see more family oriented activities. To date there is no committee, it is ad hoc, and there has been no activity on establishing a 501(c)3. Kate stated this is a similar issue with other grants, we do good things, but we don't have a backbone to permanently support these activities as part of our culture. David asked what is the benefit of becoming a Coast Guard city? Tom said it is to show support of the armed services in our community and make it a nice place to live for people while they are stationed here. Tom added we should talk to Grand Haven and Traverse City about how they received designation, but both of those cities have much more resources than Cheboygan, for example Traverse City has 6 full-time staff people. David asked whose decision was it to deny the application? Tom answered there is a 5 member committee in Cincinnati that decides. David added that there are committees in the community that have raised money and things for the Coast Guard such as during government shut down. Dale added another possible benefit would be when Coast Guard is looking to port another ship in the straits, having the designation may be helpful in making sure that Cheboygan is home port to another boat. There are docks in place for two boats, a dock was built when the new Mackinaw was built and the old was still in place, this represents a \$6 million investment from the federal government. Tom added that we often take the Coast Guard's presence for granted, Coast Guard members invest in our community and we should invest in them in return. Kate added that the Pure Michigan Designated Water Trail application has not been worked on and there is no timeline. Kate asked if there has been any activity on purchase

4. Recreation Authority. Schulz summarized conversation with Matt and asked the Commission if we could have a presentation during a regular meeting. Martin said sounds great. Rieger said education is an appropriate first step. Stempky agreed that during public meeting is a good idea so anyone can come and learn and it is recorded as a public meeting so the information and details on the process is available after the fact also. Tom added that since Councilwoman Johnson resigned from the commission we need a new council liaison, it is very important to have support from the council if we aim to pursue an authority. City Manager Eustice will try to get a volunteer to be the liaison to the rec commission at the upcoming council meeting, adding it is very important to have a council representative when we go to the townships and the school district to request resolutions. Schulz added that she spoke on behalf of the commission when asked by the city clerk/treasurer if we wanted to wait for a new council person to be appointed or if we can go ahead with someone who is currently on council, she responded that we would like to have a volunteer from the current council. Kate asked if anyone is opposed to moving ahead with anyone currently on council. No one was opposed. David asked why it would take a while to fill the open seat? Tom explained that it takes at least 30 days to get the posting out and interviews if needed etc.

Old Business

1. DNR Land Trust Fishing Piers Project. Kate summarized the project adding that Bill Sanders is managing the project and will be procuring construction/implementation. Bill is currently doing soil borings to make sure the ground/land can handle the construction

of the piers. RFP for contractor will go out by the end of April. Actual project will begin around the end of July. Local companies have expressed interest in bidding. The first phase of the project could be done in the fall. Tom explained that there may be up to 3 phases with up to 7 piers and a boardwalk through DNR Land Trust. Great Lake Fisheries Trust and Caroline Keason at Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council have been wonderful in helping us to make this a great project and attraction in Cheboygan. Tom added that this is a very visible place in town and will attract people over to the East side of town.

New Business

1. Recreation Passport Application Kate explained that this will be on the agenda for Tuesday, March 23 so anyone is welcome to make comment. Dale asked if their volunteer hours for the year 2020 are needed, Kate said yes, send them to her. Dale added that there is \$500.00 available from a grant to remove trees if needed.

Staff Report: There is no staff report. Tom reported that the Rec Center is back open again and being used frequently on weeknights for basketball with masks and social distancing required. The activity at the Rec has stepped up quite a bit. Tom is going to a meeting tomorrow night with Cheboygan Housing Association to talk about how to fund the deficit at the ice rink, Covid has resulted in a larger than normal deficit loss at that facility. There is only one budgetary organization that runs at a deficit and they are trying to change that. Kate asked if Covid Emergency Relief Act (CERA) money going to municipalities can be applied to that deficit. Tom stated that ice time is not what it was 20 years ago so there needs to be a better plan.

Commissioner Comments: Schulz asked for Commissioner comments. Dale added that we are really fortunate to have Schulz as a chairperson.

Public Comment: No members of the public participated so there was no comment.

Adjournment: Martin made motion to adjourn support from Stempky. Schulz added that the next meeting is April 21 and will be virtual unless anyone is opposed. All in favor with none opposed. Meeting adjourned.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve was made on the regular commission meeting on (date)_____by Commissioner _____ with support from Commissioner_____ with () Commissioners in favor and () Commissioners opposed.

These minutes were approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission on 2/16/2022. Some board members that attended the 3/17/2021 meeting are no longer serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission