

Cheboygan Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, Jan 19, 6:00.

Call to order: 6:00

Roll call: Present- Bill Thompson, David Martin, Dale Rieger, Dick Cartmill (6:12)
Absent: John Gravlin (called in to explain his absence), Tony Eustice

Approval of Agenda: (lacked quorum to start the meeting)

Committee Reports: none

Old Business

- 1) Approval of minutes. Because the commission members just received them, the minutes will be considered for approval at the February meeting.

New Business

1. Discussion of Pocket Park (Majestic Riverview Park)
Connie Rieger reviewed the sequence of events that led to the city acquiring the property and the expectations of Tom Chastain, who donated the riverfront property.
 - A) Joe Kurtz purchasing 10' of property adjacent to his building, prior to the land being donated to the city, so he can erect a privacy fence. Mr. Kurtz has agreed to construct the fence in such a way that a mural can be painted on it.
 - B) Connie and Dale Rieger will meet with Mr. Kurtz to clarify the plan.
 - C) Connie Rieger has spoken with three artists who might be interested in painting the proposed mural.
 - D) She noted that she is communicating with Mr. Chastain regarding the nature of the commemorative plaque and historical narrative he would want erected on the site.
 - E) City Manager Dan Sabolsky urged the commissioners to consider potential designs for the park.

2) Discussion 220 Water Street Conceptual Development. Dan Sabolsky noted the city is finalizing an offer which would allow due diligence to be practiced in assessing the environmental status of the ¼ acre property (located at and adjacent to the BK&C property along the Cheboygan River. He noted a five year plan would be needed for utilizing the property's potential and that rental of the building spaces would help offset the lost tax revenue that would occur when private property became city property. He also noted that the land might make possible a ramp that could make the river footbridge accessible to all. He believes the property could be a powerful economic engine for the community and that the Cheboygan Downtown Development Association would be approached to help with the finances of the proposed purchase.

3) Hard copies of the five year recreation plan were distributed to commission members and Chairman Rieger urged them to review the plans prior to the goal setting session that would be a primary feature of the February meeting. He asked that they send him names of persons they would recommend to facilitate the goal setting.

4) Ice rink improvements: Sabolsky reviewed the work that had been done by staff at the ice arena and stated that the staff is actively seeking more activities and events so the arena will be less dependent on the general fund. Commissioner Martin inquired about gaining additional financial support via a Recreation Authority that would include the townships outside the city limits. Rieger noted that the proposed authority was included in the 5 Year Recreation Plan and could be up for consideration at the February goal setting session.

5) Sabolsky informed the commissioners about the recently acquired riverfront property, contiguous to the beach area of Gordon Turner Park, and noted that deciding how to best utilize that property would need to be addressed

Commissioner Comments:

David Martin noted that members of the local Kiwanis chapter, to which he and Commission Thompson belonged, had expressed concern over the playground park on north U.S 23, in town, being called Kiwanis Park, in that it was a city park. Those who were concerned would like to see the sign changed.

After discussion about when the idea should be addressed, including Commissioner Cartmill's concern that important matters might require a normal slate of meetings Martin made an amended motion, seconded by Thompson, that, after the goal setting session had completed, the Commissioners consider changing the scheduled meetings to every other month. The motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Thompson said he has observed some maintenance issues that warranted attention. Sabolsky asked that those concerns be emailed to him.

Commissioner Cartmill had no comments.

Chairman Rieger thanked the commission members for their presence, reminded them of the need to review the five year plan prior to the February meeting, and urged them to send him names of those they considered to be prospective facilitators for the goal setting session. He noted he would make a point of soliciting agenda proposed agenda items.

Public Comments:

Connie Rieger asked that the February meeting be available to the public as a Zoom meeting. Anna Sangster shared her experience chaperoning Boys' Night , held Monday evening at the Cheboygan Recreation Center.

Dan Sabolsky noted that, in the future, meetings could be recorded so secretarial duties for minutes could be transferred to a member of the office staff.

Rieger asked for a motion to conclude the meeting. It was made by Thompson, seconded by Martin, and passed by a 4-0 voice votes.

The meeting adjourned at 6:54.