

Cheboygan Parks and Recreation Commission
403 N. Huron Street, Council Chambers
Wednesday February 16, 2022

Oath of Office was given for Commissioner John Gravlin

Call to Order: 6:02pm

Roll Call:

Present: David Martin, Dick Cartmill, Tony Eustice, John Gravlin, Dale Reiger listened in on meeting via Zoom (did not participate to follow OMA). Also Present is City Manager Dan Sabolsky, Polly Schneider, Executive Director of the Cheboygan Area Chamber of Commerce and Council Liaison Mary Darling.

Absent: William Thompson

Approval of Agenda: Cartmill moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Gravlin. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: None

Old Business:

Approval of Minutes:

- 1) Motion by Gravlin to approve old meeting minutes presented to the commission. Seconded by Martin. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2) Motion by Martin to approve meeting minutes of January 22, 2022 meeting minutes. Seconded by Gravlin. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

- 1) Introduction of Council Representative, Mary Darling:

Darling expressed her excitement to be the Council Representative for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

- 2) Changing of the sign at Kiwanis Park:

Martin said he talked to the Kiwanis and they don't know what they want the sign to say, they want 'Kiwanis' in not so much large print. They would like the City to communicate to citizens that Kiwanis donates their time and money to the park. Sabolsky suggested putting up a sign that mentions if there are any questions or concerns regarding Kiwanis Park to contact the City at the City Hall number. Martin thinks Kiwanis would be happy with that. Cartmill says he would support that. Concerned of liability issues. All were in favor of Sabolsky's suggestion to putting some kind of signage up in the park.

- 3) Discussion of Parks and Recreation 5 Year Plan:

Cartmill said that he was trying to locate Rotary Park. Schneider said that she didn't think Rotary had a park. Cartmill responded that it's in the 5 year plan. Discussion on where Rotary Park is commenced. Sabolsky said he would contact Scott Hancock on that park.

Cartmill noted that in the 5 year plan, there is a goal regarding getting other townships/cities involved. Wondering if we could implement a non-resident fee for those who use facilities within Cheboygan that don't live here. Sabolsky said that they have explored that option and were wondering how it would be implemented and if it would be effective. Most programs such as boys and girls night, there is no charge and other programs such as baseball or hockey are ran by non-profits. Cartmill mention brochures and that he thinks having a brochure for citizens would be helpful to collect fees and get the word out. Sabolsky discussed that they are trying to catch up on their fees and use things such as the City webpage to get the word out on events.

4) Goal Setting – led by Polly Schneider, Director of Cheboygan Chamber of Commerce:

Schneider started off with the Commissioners listing what's happening in parks and rec and what's not happening in parks and rec but should be. The commissioners and Sabolsky discussed different things happening/have happened in parks and rec such as possibly purchasing 220 Water Street, the fishing pier, pocket park, DNR donated land in Gordon Turner Park, October Fest, Trails Council, and more.

Schneider then wanted to break down the goals listed in the 5 year plan. Martin suggested that one way to accomplish the goals is to get more volunteers to help and get in touch with different volunteer organizations. Sabolsky suggested funding such as grants, donations, etc. Gravlin said that these organizations that use parks and rec facilities (little league, hockey, etc) should be in loop with parks and rec/City so the people of Cheboygan know what's going on. Sabolsky suggested that all of the leaders of these different groups/organizations get together and discuss with one another. Eustice suggested a page on the Cheboygan website that had all the happenings in town regarding parks and rec. Schneider discussed a roundtable to gather everyone together.

Schneider discussed goal #3, Support Implementation of 'Trails Town Master Plan' and mention how Cheboygan is a trails town. Within that, Schneider suggested bike safety education and water safety education. Partnering the City with the Sheriff's office or Trails Council to put that on. For water, the Coast Guard or DNR. Schneider mentioned possible collaboration with DDA or visitor's bureau for trail signage/directional signage. Schneider also mentioned a possible collaboration with the DDA if the City is accepted in the Sustainable Built Environment Initiative (SBEI) through MSU. Schneider said that now that the parks and rec has a list of what's happening and what's not, now it needs to be looked at on how to achieve and pursue these goals.

Darling mentioned that she thinks that the website should be updated with information and a round table needs to happen. Schneider said that the next step is the round table and getting everyone together to have information to put on a website. Cartmill noted that there is not much for senior citizens for a lot of them don't have modern technology. Schneider mentioned inviting Gail Tinker to discuss what seniors want and what seniors need.

Martin questioned how to get in contact with all these people for the round table. Sabolsky said Scott Hancock would be the most knowledgeable for who uses facilities and is most involved. Schneider asked how to activate a volunteer base and what they could do for parks and rec. Gravlin said that could be explored further at the round table. Schneider suggested to get a date set for the round table as soon as possible. Eustice said he would get with Hancock to get contact information. Discussion on where to hold this round table and more about the round table commenced. Gravlin discussed different organizations such as National Honors Society

and kids sports teams that require their students to have volunteer hours, parks and rec should let those leaders know we need them. Commissioners discussed to possibly meet on March 31st, after spring break, before Easter.

5) Consideration of Recreation Commission applications:

Trisha Deeter withdrew her application since there is only one vacancy on the board. Citizen Darrin Deeter grew up in Cheboygan and participated in various sports activities, moved downstate but is now back and Cheboygan. Martin moved to get approval from Council to appoint Darrin Deeter to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Seconded by Gravlin. Motion carried unanimously. Darling stated that she is Deeter's aunt.

6) Consideration of moving the Parks and Recreation meetings to every other month:

Martin said since there is a lot happening soon with the recreation commission so to keep meeting monthly would be best. Maybe consider meeting every other month later.

City Report:

Sabolsky passed out a new grant that just become available today. Discussed what this grant could go towards. Gravlin commented that if there is a paved parking lot that goes in for the Children's Trail, it would solve the geese problem. Sabolsky said that he does believe the DNR could try to relocate them. If that doesn't work, they could destroy the eggs. Sometimes they have sprayed the eggs with an oil to make the egg infertile so they never hatch. Gravlin suggested a dog park so the geese wouldn't come around.

Commissioner Comments:

Gravlin had a comment that he has been approached by several people about cross country skiing, but there is no place to do so. Sabolsky commented that the City does own some land that we could possibly make an area for cross country skiing.

Darling commented that she very much enjoyed this meeting. Said that Schneider was very informative and helpful. She will very much enjoy her time being apart of Parks and Recreation. Martin thanked Schneider for her goal setting and thanked Darling for her time and for bringing Deeter to the board.

Public Comments:

Deeter commented that we need to put some time into our parks for all different age groups and communities. Said that the recreation center needs some revamping; it's been the same since he was a kid. There's lots to do and different ways to look at these projects.

Adjournment:

Martin made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Gravlin. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.