

Cheboygan Parks and Recreation  
Wednesday, March 15, 2023  
Cheboygan Council Chambers

Call to order: 5:02pm

Roll Call: Present - Darrin Deeter, Bill Thompson, David Martin, Dale Rieger, Mary Darling, Dan Sabolsky. Absent - Tony Eustice, Dick Cartmill, John Gravlin

Approval of agenda: Martin/Deeter : 4-0

Approval of minutes: Martin/Deeter : 4-0

#### New Business

Majestic Pocket Park - Rieger noted that the mural is being painted in the public library arts and crafts room and should be installed by the May Parks and Rec meeting. Members had questions about the next steps in completing the project - Rieger noted that preliminary plans and estimated costs were in place but that further input and fine tuning were yet to be done.

Improved Communication - Deeter has found a free website platform (Events in the City) that would allow multiple information providers (e. g. Chamber, schools, etc.) to make their information available at a central location. He noted that a joint meeting with the providers has yet to be held. Rieger offered to help.

Recreation Authority - tabled due to John Gravlin's participation in the world's cross country skiing championship in Austria.

Felix Merchant Park - David Martin said Roger Kopernik, who had initiated the idea of renovating the park, would like help in developing a vision for the park. Rieger offered to help Martin with this. He also inquired whether the park was Kopernik specific interest or if his desire was a more generalized wish to make positive, visible contributions to the attractiveness of the community.

Discussion of the potential MEDC matching grant to fund a dog park: Rieger asked Sabolsky what steps were needed next. Sabolsky said that in addition to the letter of understanding among the city, county, and DNR, he and Jeff Lawson (Cheboygan County Supervisor) would need to see details on the cost of the park (including all incidentals such as benches and signs) and a narrative describing the proposed park as well as how it developed as a goal. A general discussion of who might serve as the fiscal agent lead to the idea of asking the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan or the Cheboygan County Community Foundation if either would be willing.

Public Comments: none

Commissioner comments: Deeter, Rieger, Thompson, Martin - none

Darling noted that she is a member of the Cheboygan Leadership group and that they have chosen the Youth Center as their project to support.

Dan Sabolsky's report: Sabolsky noted that the Community Foundation has signed a memorandum of understanding to take over the upkeep of the lighthouse at the river mouth.

They have requested they be given the adjacent land that was DNR property until recently. He noted his concerns about granting that request.

He described how a coalition has proposed upgrades to the ballfields in Major City Park that would include bathrooms, a new snack bar, and indoor seating during inclement weather.

Discussions regarding costs, funding, and city contributions is ongoing.

\$116,000 has been raised to purchase a new Zamboni for the ice arena. \$200k is needed for replacement of the facilities chillers.

The structural issues with the Opera House and City Hall includes \$3 million that needs immediate attention and \$10-12 million within the next five years.

Adjournment: Martin/Thompson - 4-0 5:52