

Cheboygan Parks and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Call to Order: 5:32 by Chairman Dale Rieger

Roll call: Dale Rieger, Dick Cartmill, David Martin, Darren Deeter, Dawn Reo.

Absent: Tony Eustice, Mary Darling

Approval of Agenda: Martin/Deeter: 5-0

Old Business:

1. Approval of Previous Minutes (September 20, 2023): Deeter/Martin: 5-0

New Business:

1. Consideration of Selection of New Chair Person and Vice Chair:
 - Dale Rieger announced that he would like to step down from the chairman's position and asked if anyone present is willing to take over. Nobody volunteered. Dale said that he would continue provided someone else could record minutes for the meetings. It was decided that minute-taking would rotate among commissioners. David Martin volunteered to take minutes for the upcoming, following, meeting.
2. Update on Proposed Dog Park
 - County Supervisor Jeff Lawson will be showing anyone interested prospective properties within the county fairgrounds at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 9. Part of the reason for considering the alternative site is because of a potential for problems with the proposed property adjacent to the DNR parking lot, as parking requires a Michigan State Parks pass.
3. Committee Reports:

A-- Majestic Pocket Park. Tom Eustice is investigating the fencing of the park, and rip rap along the river. Plans also call for sidewalks leading into the park and a possible cupola. The sidewalks would lead to a bench and would be ADA compliant. There is no funding available for these projects currently.

B-- Improved Communication. David Martin brought up that there is so much

going on, that a central location for Recreation topics would be helpful: registrations, sports events, facilities, etc. Discussion followed, suggestions included the library, city, DDA websites or newsletters. A Subcommittee including David Martin, Darren Deeter, and Dawn Reo will discuss the matter further.

C-- Felix Merchant Park. David Martin had proposed a survey of homeowners in the area. City Manager Dan Sabolsky told him that the city was also preparing a survey and that he should hold off for now.

Public Comment:

Sherry Nelson asked if the group had considered Felix Merchant Park as a site for the proposed dog park. The response was that parking would be an issue for that location.

Commissioners Comments:

Dale Rieger reported that at a City Council meeting, it was announced that a grant of \$ 871,000 was awarded to pave the Children's Trail, to pave the parking lot, making it ADA compliant, and to build ADA compliant fishing piers along the Cheboygan River, adjacent to the Children's Trail. The project will go out for bid. Dale Rieger reported that there are now 4 Memorials in the Children's Trail Memorial Garden. There is a podium at each location, which features an aluminum plaque to memorialize each child.

Rieger announced that there will be a Christmas Children's Trail event on December 9, featuring Santa and the Grinch. The Halloween event, with rain, drew 250 children.

The 5-year Recreation Plan must be revised and available. Darren Deeter volunteered to be part of a subcommittee to work on the plan that must be presented to City Council. David Martin recommended dropping the language about forming a "Recreation Authority," as the City Manager ~~does not appear to support it~~ believes it would be difficult to achieve. Dale Rieger suggested that it should be considered as it is a valuable funding tool. He suggested letting City Council make the decision whether to accept or reject the concept.

David Martin announced an event, partnering with Special Olympics. A Winterfest celebration, tentatively scheduled January 12, would be held at Gordon Turner Park, Festival Square, and other locations, and be staged in concert with Polly Schneider and the Cheboygan DDA. The event could also be on the same day as the "Walk 4 Warmth."

Dick Cartmill reported that Kiwanis received a grant for \$10,000 for additions to Kiwanis Park. The first item to be purchased will be a merry-go-round and a fence along the road. The Kiwanis raffle also generated \$10,000.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 31. Note that this is a different week of the month, due to schedule conflicts.

Adjournment: 6:35