

**Cheboygan Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 5:00pm
City Council Chambers**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dale Rieger at 5:02 pm.

Roll Call: David Martin, Dick Cartmill, Darrin Deeter, Dale Rieger, Ruthann Cantile

Absent: Lyndee Zeigler, Johanna Lund

Also Present: Mary Darling, Marysue Ryan, Connie Rieger, George Olson, Sherry Nelson

Fundraising. Connie Rieger outlined a fundraising proposal for three groups: Majestic Riverview Park, the Cheboygan Dog Park, and the Children's Trail. Artist Marysue Ryan is donating three paintings to be used to raise funds, one for each group. Kristen Baggott, with the Cheboygan Arts Council, had contacted Bidding Owl, which suggested two options:

1. Online auction
2. Sell raffle tickets through Bidding Owl for painting donations

Bidding Owl suggested a \$20 per ticket price. (With the sale of 100 tickets, \$2,000 would be raised.)

There was discussion about how to present the paintings. A different painting would be offered for each group, Majestic, Dog Park, and Children's Trail. The Dog Park painting could be a commission of a dog, offered Marysue Ryan. Marysue will email photos of available paintings to Sherry Nelson, a dog park committee member, from which a committee could choose for each group. Sherry will forward the photos to Commission members and Dog Park committee members.

Darrin Deeter suggested that a finite number of tickets be offered. The number, and the price of raffle tickets has not yet been set.

The fiduciary for the project is not yet determined. The Arts Council does not want to be the fiduciary. Sam Johnson will set up the Bidding Owl program online.

Old Business: No May, 2024, minutes are available, having been lost electronically. Minutes for May 8, 2024, Cheboygan Parks and Recreation Commission, will be considered as the draft memo attached.

Dog Park Update: Dale and Ron Weisberger met with Jeff Lawson following the last dog park meeting. Lawson agreed to ask the County Board to endorse the location of the park at the fairgrounds, and to donate \$10,000 toward the project. He made the request, and it was passed. Lawson also told Dale that the matching MEDC grant was submitted on Wednesday, September 18. When the MEDC grant is approved, the pledges already made must be collected over a 2-month period. Timing of the dog park construction is not set, as a culvert in the park area needs to be installed first. The dog park will most likely be built next spring.

Felix Merchant Park: David Martin reported on a questionnaire that neighbors of the park filled out. The park was built in the 1950s to honor Cheboygan's first MIA World War 2 veteran, Felix Merchant. The park needs updating as there is no equipment or play structures in it. There is only a rock with a plaque inset to honor Merchant. Of the 25 responses returned, the top contenders for updating the park are:

- 1—Picnic area
- 2—Gazebo
- 3—Basketball court

The two surviving Merchant relatives live in Virginia. One would like the rock moved to Veterans Park. The other wants it to remain where it is.

Master Plan Survey: David Martin reported that the city is currently collecting data from area residents from online surveys to assist in development of a 5-year Master Plan. It is available at the city website, or at City Hall, if a hard copy is preferred.

Questions. Mary Darling asked if there was an update on moving the Joanna Neil memorial Rock from the riverside at Lincoln Avenue to the Children's Trail where it would be more visible. Dale Rieger said that the two companies contacted to give an estimate could not do the project as they did not have the equipment needed. The guardrail would also need to be removed to lift the rock.

Dale also said that surveying and soil boring have been done at the Children's Trail in preparation for paving it. Additional boulders have also been added to the Memorial Grove. A new aluminum butterfly has also been installed. There was

some vandalism recently, to the library box door and checkers table, which have since been repaired.

Ruthann Cantile noted that improvements have been made recently at the ice arena. Fresh paint and new toilets are among them. Concessions this season will be run by the Cantile Family Foundation.

Meeting Adjourned 6:05 pm.