

Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved Minutes

- Date:** June 4, 2008
- Time:** 4:00 p.m.
- Place:** Fillmore Complex, Conference Room D
- Present:** Ted Bosgraaf, Bobbie Jones Sabine, Paul Geerlings, Crystal Unema, Joyce Kortman, Roger Jonas, Ray Statema and Jim Miedema
- Absent:** Philip Kuyers and Russ Brown
- Staff:** John Scholtz, Director; Curt TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development; Sherry Costello, Administrative Clerk; and Dave Mazurek, Park Operations Superintendent
- Guests:** Jeremy Gonsior, Holland Sentinel and Fred Vaas

Subject: Approval of Minutes

- PR 08-48 Motion: To approve the minutes of the Commission’s May 7, 2008 regular meeting.
Moved by: Statema Supported by: Miedema Unanimous

Subject: Go Into Closed Session

- PR 08-49 Motion: To go into Closed Session to discuss property matters.
Moved by: Unema Supported by: Statema
Yeas: Bosgraaf, Sabine, Geerlings, Unema, Kortman, Jonas, Statema and Miedema.
Nays: None Motion passed 8 to 0.

Subject: To Rise From Closed Session

- PR 08-50 Motion: To rise from Closed Session.
Moved by: Geerlings Supported by: Miedema Unanimous

Other Items Discussed:

Commission members reviewed comment cards and email comments received since the previous meeting. Unema commented on the suggestion of a disc golf course at Riley Trails and expressed her concern in having the course there due to the beautiful Lady Slippers. Bosgraaf suggested the landfill area and TerHaar stated that the landfill could be a potential area for a course. Bosgraaf agreed with the need to be cautious of damaging the site's natural features when considering a course at this site.

President Bosgraaf asked if there were any questions or comments on the Director's report. Scholtz reviewed the timeline for the Parks Department move to the new office. He also referenced the Parks Millage Renewal Proposal from March, 2006 and gave a brief explanation of the millage renewal and Headlee rollback process for Commission members. Scholtz then gave an update on the house at Connor Bayou. He recommended to Commission members that completing the master plan should be the first step in determining what the use of the house should be. He noted the master plan is budgeted for this year and staff intends to focus on it in late summer and fall.

Bosgraaf called on Mazurek to present the Park Operations Superintendent's Report. There were no questions, however, Mazurek reported on his new report format in an effort to combine the Park Manager's report with the Superintendent's. Bosgraaf favored the merging of the two reports and Geerlings thought the new format was very well done. Mazurek requested Commission members inform him of any changes they would like to see in the report or information they would like to see in the future.

Bosgraaf received the Park 12 Advisory Council meeting minutes and asked for questions or comments. Bosgraaf asked about the status of the Pollock's driveway project. TerHaar explained that there had been some delay due to the old retaining wall on the property and a new wall system will be needed. He stated that the engineers are working on the final plan now. Bosgraaf inquired about the future of the Advisory Committee and Scholtz agreed that discussion was needed as to the long-term role for the group following resolution of encroachments and other major issues. He suggested that the committee could possibly meet on a quarterly basis to oversee improvements and also deal with management and policy issues that will arise. Kortman expressed her concern with meeting without a meaningful agenda for a long period of time and suggested letting the members know far enough in advance of a change. Scholtz thought that continuing through the end of the year and then moving to periodic meetings would be beneficial because staff values the input from committee members for ongoing policies.

Bosgraaf called on Unema, representative of the Friends of Ottawa County Parks, and she reported on the success of the Grand River Greenway boat trip. She reported that 122 people attended the event and the Grand Rapids Press did a nice article in the paper. The Friends are looking into making this an annual event in the future. Bosgraaf complimented Parks staff on the information booklet that was created for the event. She announced that the Friends group will be serving refreshments at the Upper Macatawa Natural Area dedication on June 19th, and a fishing day is planned for June 26th at Grand River Park.

Bosgraaf then called for Old Business and TerHaar presented a slide show of the current construction projects. Bosgraaf thanked TerHaar for the report and Unema expressed her support for all the improvements shown. Sabine expressed her appreciation for staff's efforts to limit the disturbance of the natural environment at the construction areas.

Scholtz then reported that the Black Lake shoreline project is still on schedule and will start sometime after Labor Day. Staff will meet with neighbors one more time to answer questions and address concerns. TerHaar indicated he has drawings if anyone would like to see them.

Scholtz continued with an update on the Parking lot lease at Park 12. He stated that the attorneys are working on it now and he expected to get a new revision soon.

Bosgraaf called for any comments from Commission members and Sabine requested to set a date for the Public Relations Committee to meet. A date was set for June 18th @ 2:30 p.m. Bosgraaf also confirmed a Planning committee date of June 23rd @ 1:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.