



Parks & Recreation Office – 901 Montana Avenue

October 1, 2024

6:30

## **MINUTES**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Gary Stevenson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Wendy Taavola called roll.

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **PRESENT**

Bob Bosk  
Cathy Sjoquist  
Gary Stevenson  
Jay Bostwick

#### **ABSENT**

Jeremy Cook  
Anne Pfothner  
Roger Aho

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Wendy Taavola, Director

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made to approve minutes of the August 13, 2024, meeting by Sjoquist, Seconded by Bostwick.

Voting Yea: ALL

MOTION CARRIED

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Director Taavola gave an update on the Native American Statue Enclosure project. The project must be approved by the Planning Commission and County Building Inspector. Project detail is needed, including plans and licensed contractor. Cathy Sjoquist has spoken with Jim Baxter, a local contractor, regarding volunteering his time to the project.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Board reviewed and discussed the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Proposed Bylaws and made recommendations. Director Taavola will make updates and return document for final approval and adoption. Bylaws must be submitted for approval by the City Commission.

A discussion was initiated by Bosk regarding the dates of the meetings and the conflict of elections being on Tuesdays. Several board members work at the election precincts each election. The board will revisit this topic when next year's meeting dates are set. A motion was made to change the date of the next meeting to 11-12-2024 by Stevenson, Seconded by Bostwick.

Voting Yea: ALL

MOTION CARRIED

Director Taavola informed the board that Jeremy Cook contacted her today regarding resigning his position on the Board, he stated that he will send a letter to the city clerk, Kim Berry.

The Board reviewed and discussed the Harbor Policy documents. Director Taavola will make updates and return document for final approval to post on the Harbor website. Sjoquist initiated a discussion regarding the sign at the boat launch that should be replaced because she has witnessed boaters launching without making payment. Director Taavola stated that she is researching an online payment and documentation system for the marina.

Director Taavola spoke about Don Poe, First Aid Lead, retiring after 40 years of service at the Ski Hill. The Board discussed options to honor Mr. Poe for his service.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

**Bob Bosk:** initiated discussions on the following topics during the meeting:

1. **Tree Removal at the Ski Hill:** Bosk inquired the tree removals on the west end of the parking lot of the Ski Hill. Director Taavola informed the group that the department is going to install an ice rink in that location if the weather allows this winter.
2. **Pickleball Court:** Bosk suggested a bike rack for the courts.
3. **South Bluff Road:** Remember for Spring cleanup.
4. **Electric Bicycle Use in Town:** Bosk inquired about an information campaign for E-bike users in town. He noted that they are becoming road hazards.

**Cathy Sjoquist:** Sjoquist presented several items for the board's consideration during the meeting:

1. **City Christmas Tree:** Sjoquist inquired about the City Christmas tree.
2. **Staub:** Sjoquist raised a discussion about the contractor at the wastewater plant and whether they may have a grant program.
3. **Perennial Drive:** Sjoquist inquired about whether the perennial drive was advertised on the city website. Director Taavola stated that the website was updated with the information.
4. **Lakeshore Drive Freshwater Coral Sculpture:** Sjoquist discussed the removal of the sculpture on Lakeshore Drive.

**Jay Bostwick:** Bostwick initiated discussions on several topics:

1. **Downtown Days:** Bostwick thanked the department for assisting with the Downtown Days setup. He updated the Board on the success of the inaugural event.
2. **DDA:** Bostwick gave clarification on the DDA's annual budget.

**Gary Stevenson:** Stevenson expressed interest in several topics for discussion:

1. **Skatepark:** Stevenson inquired about inspection of the skatepark. Ms. Taavola shared information on how the skatepark inspections are handled.
2. **Gladstone Flags:** Stevenson suggested that the Recreation department take over the flag project for 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Taavola updated the Board on the department's grant award from the Michigan Arts Council for a portable stage setup. Additionally, the grant application to the National Fitness Council has been submitted.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, Gary Stevenson motioned; Jay Bostwick seconded to adjourned meeting at 8:21 pm.