

GLADSTONE GLADSTONE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD



Parks & Recreation Office – 901 Montana Avenue
August 13, 2024
6:30

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Anne Pfothenauer
Bob Bosk
Cathy Sjoquist
Gary Stevenson
Jay Bostwick

ABSENT

Jeremy Cook

STAFF PRESENT

Eric Buckman, City Manager
Wendy Taavola, Parks &
Recreation Director
Troy Drebenstedt, Park Staff
Renee Barron, Community
Development & Zoning Director
Patricia West, DDA Director

PUBLIC COMMENT

Patricia West from the DDA spoke about the Parks & Recreation Concierge crew, Nathan Dale and Kiera Donovan, that works each Monday for the Farmer's Market set up and take down. She stated that they do a great job. She also stated that she will be requesting a \$2,000 budget increase for materials and supplies used for beautification.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made to approve minutes of the May 7, 2024, meeting by Bostwick, Seconded by Sjoquist.

Voting Yea: ALL

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Manager Buckman gave an update on the security cameras at the harbor. They have all been installed and are up and running. The cameras are for security and are monitored at city hall. The board requested information on a camera that can be viewed by the public.

NEW BUSINESS

The board welcomed the new Parks & Recreation Director, Wendy Taavola.

The board recommends appointment of Mr. Roger Aho as the seventh Recreation Advisory Board member to the City Commission. Mr. Aho's term expiration would be January 1, 2026.

Motion made by Stevenson, Seconded by Sjoquist.

Voting Yea: ALL

MOTION CARRIED

A letter from the city attorney to the property owners of the Jame T. Jones property was read by City Manager Buckman. A video was played with an example of updates that can be made here. The board recommends to the City Commission to proceed with sending a letter to the property owners regarding the first amendment to the lease agreement or possibly gifting to the City.

Motion made by Pfothenauer, Seconded by Bostwick.

Voting Yea: ALL

MOTION CARRIED

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

Troy Drebenstedt gave an update on this year's Sail School, highlighting the increase in participants to over 50 students. He stated there were students of ages ranging from 6 - 79, 43 kids and 8 adults. The school welcomed two guest speakers during the two-week program.

Mr. Drebenstedt also updated the board on the progress of the Pram Shack project. He noted interest from the Escanaba Yacht Club in the sail school and their offer of doing a fundraiser for the project. A rough estimate of fundraising is approximate \$22,000 raise of the \$25,000 goal. John DeFiore has also donated windows, doors and a garage door to the project. A copy of the project plans was circulated in the meeting. The building is on schedule to be constructed this fall. The board discussed creating a connection between Gladstone and Escanaba and bringing back sail races.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

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

1. **Beach:** Bosk inquired about the length of the contract for the YMCA lifeguards at the beach. He also raised a concern about the bathrooms in the beach house being closed.
2. **Harbor:** Bosk raised a query regarding the rules for the harbor boat slip rentals. Bosk requested to add a policy review to the next meeting. He also has a concern about the harbormaster's office hours.
3. **Memorials in the Park:** Bosk would like to see more options available for memorial benches in the park.
4. **Bay de Noc Shared Use Path:** Bosk raise a question regarding the maintenance of the weeds along the path. The board discussed funding of the maintenance.
5. **Pump Track:** Bosk updated the board on the completion of the Pump Track at the Sports Park. Additionally, he introduced Mike Nohemy of the Delta County Non-Motorized Group who talked about the possible expansion of the bike park. The board requested a conceptual plan to be submitted.

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

1. **Lakeshore Drive Sculpture:** Sjoquist commented on a need to upgrade or remove the freshwater coral sculpture on Lakeshore Drive.
2. **Beach:** Sjoquist expressed a need to review the duties of the lifeguards for next year's contract.
3. **Harbor:** Sjoquist informed the board that there are private signs on the harbor docks and that no private signs should be enforced. Additionally, Sjoquist stated that the harbor needs new "no wake" signs.

4. **Memorials:** Sjoquist suggested to create an "adopt a garden" memorial program.
5. **Highway Fence:** Sjoquist spoke to MDOT regarding maintenance/ownership of the fence along the highway.
6. **Events:** Sjoquist raised interest in bringing back the sandcastle contest, fishing derby and watermelon feed.
7. **Pump Track:** Sjoquist inquired about publicity for the new pump track.

Ann Pfothenaur: Pfothenaur raised a query about updates on the Golf Course, City Manager Buckman stated that there are several parties interested in purchasing the property.

Jay Bostwick: Bostwick initiated discussions on several topics:

1. **Pickleball Court:** Bostwick requested an update on the new court project at the Sports Park. Director Taavola gave an update.
2. **Native American Statues:** Bostwick requested an update on the plan for a roof over the statues in the park. City Manager Buckman stated that the project is waiting on funding and that the structure should go through the Planning Commission process.
3. **Campground:** Bostwick inquired about problems at the campground. Director Taavola spoke about the homeless issue.
4. **Snack Shack:** Bostwick raise a query regarding who runs the concessions at the Sports Park. Director Taavola informed the board that the Parks and Recreation Department employees run the concessions.
5. **Ski Chalet:** Bostwick requested a microwave for the kitchen at the chalet.

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

1. **4th of July Celebration:** Stevenson inquired about issues during the event. Director Taavola talked about the event and says it went smooth and was a learning experience being her first year.
2. **Ski Hill Equipment:** He inquired about the equipment at the ski hill and if it was ready for the season. Troy Drebenstedt talked on the equipment being serviced by the DPW mechanic.
3. **Ski Chalet:** Stevenson also raised concern about the deck at the ski chalet and if the rental rate has been decreased due to the deck being unusable. The board was updated on the deck replacement project.
4. **10th Street Hanging Baskets:** Stevenson requested to re-visit replacing the hanging baskets with banners. Director Taavola spoke of placemaking and the DDA hiring Orange Cat Media to design a new city logo.
5. **Welcome to Gladstone Signs:** Stevenson expressed interest in moving the welcome signs closer to the town entrances.

Wendy Taavola: Director Taavola introduced by-laws to the board members and requested they be discussed at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, Bob Bosk motioned; Anne Pfothenaur seconded to adjourned meeting at 8:47 pm.