

PARK BOARD NOTES
Schmidt Southside Community Center
July 10, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Kibbey, Adam Hussain, Paul Holland, Olivia Martin, Patricia Spitzley, Patricia Pisano

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dusty Fancher (excused)

OTHERS PRESENT: Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation Director; Kellie Brown, Board Secretary

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:12 p.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Brett Kaschinske deleted Todd Martin Development Fund from agenda; representative will be at August meeting.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS

None

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Adam Hussain moved to approve the May 8, 2013 minutes as submitted; seconded by Olivia Martin. 5 yeas; 0 nays.

Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

Officer Elections

Rick Kibbey turned meeting over to Paul Holland. Olivia Martin nominated Rick Kibbey for President, seconded by Paul Holland.

Adam Hussain stated he would normally recommend shifting president, but this board would be an exception due to the amount of time and commitment Rick Kibbey devotes to the board.

With no further nominations or discussion motion is carried with 5 yeas; 0 nays.

Rick Kibbey opened the floor for nominations for Vice-President. Paul Holland nominated Dusty Fancher pending her acceptance; seconded by Adam Hussain.

With no further nominations or discussion motion is carried with 5 yeas; 0 nays.

Rick Kibbey stated he would contact Dusty Fancher for her acceptance.

Park Re-alignment

Rick Kibbey provided a list of parcels found unlikely to be fit for park use in the foreseeable future. There were questions on what this was based on. Previous discussion was to agree to a set of principles of what we are trying to do with the park system.

Rick Kibbey stated there are a number of places that issue guidelines and ratios on how many acres of park land for what percentage of people. National Recreation Park Association has guidelines, the school district has one, and the American Planning Association has one. The City has done five master plans and the first four have specific recreation sections in them, which is where a lot of the recommendations for today's information came from.

What we were trying to avoid is to cut a set percentage of parks. Kibbey reviewed the list of uses for parks; flood control, land use buffer/property enhancement; office (worker amenity, riverfront), education, character and cultural development, family support (weddings, reunions, play), environmental protection, recreation (rivertrail, neighborhood playgrounds, ballfields), city identity/image, public health, and economic development.

Paul Holland recommended reviewing the park maps and discussing this later.

Brett Kaschinske stated dedicated parks have to go to a vote of the public and before that he wants the list to come to the Park Board. In order for it to go on the November ballot it has to be to Council before the end of August so this discussion would need to take place at the August Park Board meeting.

Patricia Spitzley suggested the Board meets in August with a sparse agenda and this subject be the primary item on the agenda.

Patricia Spitzley inquired about the wording “the following parcels were found to be unlikely to be fit for park use in the foreseeable future” and does this wording mean these are suggestions to take a look at.

Brett Kaschinske clarified a parcel, in our terms, is not a dedicated piece of land. In other words we have some parcels that are not dedicated park land and do not need to go before a vote of the public.

Hope Soccer Complex

Brett Kaschinske stated earlier this year he received an e-mail from the Ingham County Parks Director with the history of rentals at Hope Complex. There was a downward trend and the lease is scheduled to expire July 27, 2013, if the downward trend continues Director Willis will be recommending to the commissioners to not renew the lease. The spring numbers were not favorable; Kaschinske stated he contacted several private entities and the City of East Lansing who he thought may be interested in the complex.

Kaschinske stated he received a proposal from SBC Chill Soccer/Mid-Michigan Turf, Kevin and Julie Mullin, who own the Chill Soccer Club. SBC Chill is a for profit club. They want to take the complex as is and they would like to add another field with a synthetic turf. This new field will not impact the landfill and all variables have been reviewed.

The City has entered into a five (5) year contract. It requires them to submit any new fees or changes to the field to the Director for approval. It requires fair and open treatment to reserving the field, with preference given to Lansing Parks and Recreation. We are asking this group to help assist us with training soccer coaches.

They are planning on tournaments, which is a goal of theirs to bring in more tournaments. They are also looking at hosting other sports.

SBC Chill will be paying a \$15,000 deposit, \$1,000 annually for the lease and carry the required insurance.

Patricia Spitzley has concerns regarding liability language and the indemnification language and releasing the City of responsibility. Kaschinske provided her a copy of the contract and the language is appropriate.

Adam Hussain inquired about the City Pulse article and when did the County come in and say they were trying to construct a six month agreement or is the article inaccurate.

Brett Kaschinske stated the Mayor had a rebuttal in the current City Pulse. The Mayor met with the County Commissioners on this subject, which did not come up until we sent the letter that we were interested in breaking the lease and we received the response. The City has a great relationship with the County on many different fronts and the City would not have considered shopping this out if the County wanted to continue.

Grand Woods

Brett Kaschinske stated he, Mayor, Chad Gamble and Bob Johnson met with the Delta Township Supervisor to discuss the lease the City has with Delta on this property. The lease is up in 2014 and we have discussed if at the end of the lease if Delta would be interested in purchasing the park.

Delta Township inquired what the price would be; the City does not have a value or an appraisal on the property. Delta is interested in the property.

Information

Brett Kaschinske reviewed Concert in the Parks schedule and July 4th events.

There have been two media requests; one is from channel 10 regarding Westside Ballpark. Westside is our second adult baseball field. There are some maintenance issues we need to get taken care of regarding the conditions of the field. We did have a player take a ball to the mouth from a grounder at first base. Someone from the league contacted the media and they wanted to do a story. The leagues are complaining about the condition of the field. Kaschinske stated some of his points are we play more games on our surfaces than the Lugnuts do. We play two and three games every night. Bad hops happen all the time, but we did see some issues we could correct and took the opportunity to do so.

Kaschinske stated he received a call from the City Pulse regarding busses that depart from our community centers to Walmart. We have not seen the busses and we have not been informed about the program. Kaschinske stated he will be calling the City Pulse tomorrow.

Updates

Brett Kaschinske stated we received a \$4,000 grant from Capital Region Community Foundation for our Fitness in a Box program. We also received a \$6,000 grant from Jackson National Life Insurance for the youth scholarship program.

We have received bids back for Crego Park. Kaschinske provided and reviewed the schematics of the plan. Construction came in 3% under estimate; this is just under a \$700,000 project funded through the DNR Trust Fund Grant we received.

Rick Kibbey inquired about the gate. Kaschinske stated it will be an electronic gate down to dusk.

Patricia Pisano inquired about a timeline. Kaschinske stated it will be this fall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.