

**PARK BOARD MEETING  
Foster Community Center  
January 9, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Veronica Gracia-Wing, Jim McClurken, Rosalinda Hernandez, Kimberly Whitfield, Zoe Ahlstrom, Michael Ruddock

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Rick Kibbey, Paulette Carter-Scott

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation Director; Kellie Brown, Board Secretary; Scott Keith, Lansing Entertainment & Public Facilities Authority (LEPFA); Peter Wood, Friends of Ormond Park

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:31 p.m. (first meeting of new time change)

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Kaschinske added a letter he received to correspondence.

**BOARD MEETING MINTUES:** Ruddock approved the November 14, 2018 and December 12, 2018 minutes as submitted, seconded by Zoe Ahlstrom. 6 mins; 0 days

**Motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Groesbeck Annual Report**

Kaschinske stated a press release from Mayor Schor was sent out with his annual report, which included Groesbeck.

Scott Keith provided a copy of the annual report to the board members and reviewed.

Included in the report was a reduction in the city's subsidy to the course to \$143,000; Keith stated he is still working on the 2020 budget, but expects to reduce the subsidy even more.

Keith reviewed the accomplishments that contributed to the increase in golf rounds. Those included an increase in leagues, outings, a senior rate, increased golf lunch specials, increase in season passes, decrease in complimentary golf rounds, new pass offering, Lansing Catholic High School teams returned, a new relationship with Michigan High School Athletic Association, fiber installation and tournaments.

Changes were made with new signage on and around the course, drain repairs were made and improved customer service by making changes to bag/cart pick up.

Expenses were decreased by 40% by reviewing operations to streamline, reviewing staffing needs, reviewing all operations and making necessary adjustments while improving services.

Customer feedback was obtained from Trip Advisor, Facebook, and Google.

Plans for 2019 include a new golf simulator for indoor golf during the winter, non-resident rates, increase leagues, increase season pass sales, increase food and beverage sales, increase outings, expand tournaments, increase youth play, improve irrigation systems, upgrade maintenance equipment, expand event offerings and continued improvements to the course.

Whitfield inquired about the event offerings and what was in mind.

Keith stated LEPFA will work with the Parks and Recreation Department to provide recreational opportunities, especially during the winter to utilize the course.

Gracia-Wing inquired how the customer experience is measured.

Keith stated with the new tee system they obtain a profile. The plan is to set up interaction for feedback from the customers. Leagues currently have a form they turn in at the end of the season with their feedback.

Gracia-Wing inquired who is paying for the fiber installation.

Keith stated LEPFA is paying for it.

Gracia-Wing asked what some of the challenges are.

Keith stated they are continuing to work on the condition of the course, especially irrigation, and they continue with cosmetic changes to improve it. They are also looking at how to gain more room in the clubhouse and the age of the equipment is an issue.

Gracia-Wing inquired what we are looking at for 2020.

Kaschinske referred to the budget included in the packet.

McClurken inquired about the terrace.

Kaschinske stated money was set aside a couple years ago.

Keith stated he is also looking to provide some funding and working with the Parks Department for a terrace area.

Ruddock inquired if it is possible to track new golfers.

Keith stated they are going to try with the tee reservation program, however many use the guest process to expedite the reservation.

Keith stated legislation has changed which will allow for fee changes and have resident and non-resident fees.

Peter Wood stated there was discussion a couple years ago about the subsidy per golfer and is there new information available.

Kaschinske recalled that figure was \$24 per golfer.

Keith stated he does not have those figures with him, however revenue is up and the subsidy is down which would certainly decrease the amount per golfer.

Peter Wood inquired if there are external criteria for LEPFA's performance.

Keith stated as long as the subsidy continues to decrease, they are doing as expected.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Cemetery Development Plan**

Kaschinske stated Kibbey requested this information at the last meeting.

Kaschinske reviewed the budget provided. Also, stated the city is looking at investing the perpetual care funds more aggressively to utilize the increased interest. The Fratcher Foundation provides funding each year and he is looking at using those funds for an additional columbarium and a cremation tower. Burials have declined over the years, which decreases the cemeteries revenue.

Gracia-Wing inquired about natural burials.

Kaschinske stated the Islamic faith has natural burials in their section, but at this time there is not an area open for natural burials but there could be space.

### **Naturalization**

Kaschinske stated Kibbey requested this information at the last meeting. Naturalization was addressed in 2012. Although it was referred to as naturalization, it was actually no mow areas.

Kaschinske provided the 2012 information and maps of the parks which have portions of “naturalization”.

Hernandez stated she spoke with neighbors in the Ingham Park area that would like to have the entire park mowed.

Kaschinske stated the city made the decision in 2012 and as discussed at the last meeting, if there is to be a change to this he would need the Board to dedicate funds. True naturalization is a major undertaking and takes money, volunteers, and is very labor intensive.

Gracia-Wing stated the 2020-2025 Master Plan is where this will need to be addressed and a plan formulated.

Peter Wood inquired if there is an effort to seed the areas with flowers.

Kaschinske stated at Fenner there are plans for plantings and there have been plantings in areas along the River Trail and rain gardens, but not in any of these areas.

Gracia-Wing stated she wants to talk more naturalization in the master plan, but not at future meetings.

Ahlstrom stated she thought there was a sub-committee established regarding this issue.

Kaschinske stated he believes that was regarding Willoughby and the forest, but there have been not been any reports submitted.

### **Annual Report**

Gracia-Wing stated she and Ahlstrom have been working on the report and it should be completed next month. She will send out a copy to members for review and opinions before it is completed and submitted to administration.

## **UPDATES**

Kaschinske reviewed the update report included in the board packet. The skating rink is projected to open tomorrow, January 10, but it is weather dependent.

Ruddock inquired if attendance could be taken at the rink.

Kaschinske stated there will not be staff there to do so, but they should be able to have some rough data.

Peter Wood inquired about the bricks at Turner mini-park and the current condition is a hazard.

Kaschinske stated the department applied for two grants, both were denied. The issue is finding funding for the project. Request for proposals were put out, however the cost was much higher than expected.

Ruddock inquired about the basketball court at Hunter Park.

Kaschinske stated there is a neighbor who would like a court in the park, however, basketball courts come with problems which is why the baskets were taken down at the Hunter court. The request was to put a court on the tennis courts, however the concrete is in no condition to be used. There is a meeting at Allen Neighborhood Center to discuss the issue.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Kaschinske stated he received a resignation letter before the meeting from Paulette. Kaschinske read the letter. Due to serious health issues, she regrets she must resign.

Gracia-Wing expressed her and the board's appreciation to Paulette for her service and dedication to the board.

### **REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Ruddock inquired about the Council packet and the selling of the parking ramp and is that park property.

Kaschinske stated it is not.

Ruddock stated on the department web site under parks, it lists parking ramps.

McClurken stated the Montgomery Drain is ready to start and fundraising for the Windlord will start next month.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Kellie Brown, Park Board Secretary

Approved February 13, 2019