

**ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 9, 2016**

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, February 9, 2016. Meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Karen Moore; Boardmembers Joe Kaplan and Valarie Norman

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmember Maggie Murphy-Pomeroy, Vice Chairperson Randy Kleiman, City Council Liaison Ralph Blasier

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Peterson, Recreation Director  
Brooks Bougie, Recreation Office Assistant

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

**Approval/Correction of the December 8, 2015, Regular Meeting Minutes**

Approval tabled until next meeting in February, due to two new boardmembers appointed to the board.

**Adjustments to the Agenda**

None

**Conflict of Interest Declarations**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy.**

Recreation Director Peterson announced that there will be a public kick-off meeting for the Delta County Non-Motorized Pathway Master Plan on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-1:00 pm at the Delta County Service Center; flyers have been distributed. Boardmember Moore announced that there is also a meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> held by MDOT on the State of Michigan bridge project for 2017. Recreation Director Peterson discussed the options for connecting the Wells Township and the Escanaba Non-Motorized Pathways via Sheridan Road, the viaduct, etc.

## **2. Election of Chairperson**

Recreation Director Peterson stated that a new Chairperson must be elected due to the recent resignation of Chairperson Jonathan Harris. The board elected Boardmember Karen Moore to the position of Chairperson on the Recreation Advisory Board Committee.

**Motioned by Boardmember Joe Kaplan; seconded by Boardmember Valarie Norman. Motion was approved unanimously.**

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Recreational Program Fees.**

Recreation Director Peterson stated that the recreational program fees have remained the same for the past eight years. She stated that the programs are not designed to make large profits. She further reviewed the current fees throughout the recreational programs; and that the fees will be reviewed on a yearly basis but will remain the same for this year; the fees can be changed at any time with City Council approval.

### **2. Centralized Ice Rink.**

Recreation Director Peterson stated that there has been discussion about having one centralized ice rink located behind the Civic Center, instead of maintaining the two the City currently has at Royce and Webster. She mentioned that there have been a couple citizens inquiring about bringing back the ice rink at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and Ogden Avenue. The numbers have been fluctuating due to the mild winter and the weather; and have been declining in the past few years. Discussion took place on options of upkeep and maintenance of the current rinks compared to the proposed centralized ice rink. As of right now the City has one union employee that takes care of both rinks throughout the season. The Civic Center facility has the staff, space and equipment to support an ice rink. Discussion was brought up on options for maintenance and upkeep of the rinks going forward. Financially wise it would be much more feasible for the City to maintain one centralized ice rink put into place. The proposal was made to table the discussion of the future of the ice rinks to the agenda for next month's meeting. A report will be compiled comparing previous years of use at the ice rinks and length of time utilized.

### **3. Activities and Events.**

Recreation Director Peterson discussed various options for new activities and events in the City throughout the year, i.e. hockey tournaments, pickle ball tournaments, volleyball tournaments, bocce ball etc.

Discussion was brought up about creating a new skateboard park for the kids to deter them from skating on public and private property around the City. Chairperson Moore mentioned that she has noticed several occasions where property is being destroyed from kids' skateboards on the properties.

Recreation Director Peterson discussed the current rentals that Mish Watersports provides at the beach and harbor such as kayaks and water boards; the marina also has the yellow bike rental for the citizens.

The discussion of a splash park was brought up and Recreation Director Peterson stated that it was placed in the Capital Improvement Plan this year. She stated that there has been discussion of building a dog park within the City limits for citizens to bring their dogs to run and exercise, she stated that discussions are ongoing at the time. Director Peterson also touched on the activities for the two Rock the Dock events to be held this year.

Chairperson Moore asked about any updates that could be made to the gazebo in regards to possibly building another covered area in the vicinity of the gazebo for the citizens that rent it for weddings and such so they have somewhere to go that is not so far away from the gazebo. This will be discussed at the upcoming Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan meetings with administration.

### **4. Project Updates.**

#### **A) West Side Cross Country Ski Trail Update.**

Recreation Director Peterson stated that the ski trail hasn't been fully groomed due to lack of snow and mild weather this winter; the City is currently grooming the trails with ski tracks. There is a temporary parking lot on top of the ski hill that access loops two and three, also the snow shoe trail. The City currently has three qualified volunteers that are helping with the trails.

#### **B) West Side Snow Shoeing Trail Update.**

Recreation Director Peterson touched on the snow shoe trail; it is currently being groomed and maintained and is open to the public. It is not a through trail and you must turn around as there is a section not yet completed. The snow shoe program through public health has been a big hit this year and years past.

**C) Civic Center Usage Update/ Program and Activity Update.**

Recreation Director Peterson handed out January's Civic Center Activity Report for review. She stated the Recreation Department is currently working on preparing for the upcoming summer programs that are currently in place.

**D) Various.**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Karen Moore appointed Chairperson of the Recreation Advisory Board.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

None

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Chairperson Moore, seconded by Boardmember Kaplan, to adjourn the meeting with the time being 7:29 p.m. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Peterson  
Recreation Director

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Karen Moore, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date