

ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, April 10, 2018. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Escanaba City Hall, Escanaba, MI 49829.

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairperson Karen Moore, Vice Chairperson Joe Kaplan, Boardmembers Valerie Norman, Barb Chenier and Patty Woerpel

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kim Peterson, Recreation Director; Brooks Bougie, Recreation Assistant; Craig Woerpel, W.D.B.C. Radio; Public and members of the public (sign-in sheet attached)

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT:

Ralph Blasier, City Council Liaison

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 13, 2018

A motion was made by Boardmember Valerie Norman, seconded by Boardmember Barb Chenier, to approve the meeting minutes of March 13, 2018. Motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Citizen Input on Designing a Potential Dog Park on Delta County Airport Property

Recreation Director Peterson stated a public hearing was being conducted on the potential creation of a dog park on a parcel of land 3.3 acres owned and/or operated by the Delta County Airport. This parcel was ideal since parking, picnic tables, natural tree line and some lighting were already in place. She received numerous

volunteers that stated they would help with the creation of a dog park and also received varying information on what should be included. She is trying to get a consensus with fence height, items to be included inside and area of space to work with.

A general discussion was held by everyone in attendance.

Dave Johnson from D & D Take Em Kennels had concerns over dogs fighting, people being trained in breaking up dog fights, toy aggression and possession, dogs jumping a fence height no matter of the height. He further had concerns about vaccinations and water source for drinking. Security cameras should be installed, along with a registration form to be completed so vaccinations can be verified. Mr. Johnson volunteered his time, along with Mary Blasier, to educate the public on breaking up dogs and appropriate training for such.

Airport Director Kelly Smith stated the airport is in favor of the dog park and no one has any concerns. She stated if a pavilion is erected, than property notification has to be done with FAA which could take up to 45 days before it is approved. However, she sees no problems and/or concerns. There would have to be one way in and one way out to help the traffic flow. The airport would continue to plow the area, however, it would not be a priority. She has sample sign language and layout from Minot, North Dakota that she will forward to the Recreation Department.

Anita Carlson stated she was involved with the creation of a dog park years ago and stressed the importance of having someone "police" the area. She suggested on a volunteer basis.

Items that were discussed:

- Fence height should be 6' with a "no climb" overhang for entire park
- Having two areas, one for small and one for large dogs
- Limiting dogs to one per person
- Limiting to youth/adults and no children allowed
- Having a hand pump, but having the water source be higher up and requiring owners to bring their own water bowl to prevent diseases
- Having a registration form with a small fee so vaccinations can be verified
- Having a key card to gain access
- Charging a small fee to have for upcoming maintenance
- Having bridges, slides (old tyke slide), recycled tires, etc. for activities
- No toys allowed in the park area
- Dogs being on a leash until they get access inside the fenced area
- Having proper signage to "enter at own risk"
- Dog dispenser and garbage receptacles
- No dogs in heat
- Open from sunset to sundown – daylight hours

Proper signage was discussed and needs to be worded so all rules and regulations are defined and understandable.

Recreation Director Peterson will check with the insurance company and City Attorney on requirements pertaining to liability. Information will be reviewed at the next regular monthly meeting. Cost estimates will also be obtained and a potential corporate sponsor will be approached for funding.

NEW BUSINESS

Project Updates:

Civic Center Usage Update/Program and Activity Update

Recreation Director Peterson provided an update for the month of February and March for Civic Center activities.

Dog Park

Recreation Director Peterson stated that the Dog park project was discussed during the Public Hearing.

Various

Recreation Director Peterson stated that the Recreation Department is currently planning two movie nights in the park for this summer on June 30th and July 21st.

The tennis court grant through the DNR Recreation Passport was submitted and City Council was in favor of supporting the \$25,000 matching funds for such grant. The \$25,000 is 25% match of a \$100,000 grant. This project consisted of completely redoing the Ludington Park tennis courts from the ground up.

There is a potential bench project that is being looked at with placement around the Water Department. Working on trying to find someone to create the benches or utilizing the ISD wood shop class to do so. Recreation Director Peterson believes that these benches could be created and sold to various businesses, organizations or in the memory of someone by placing a name on such.

MISCELLANEOUS

None.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Boardmember Valerie Norman, seconded by Boardmember Joe Kaplan, to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. Motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Peterson, Recreation Director

Karen Moore, Chairperson

Date

