

ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, May 9, 2017. Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Karen Moore, Vice Chairperson Randy Kleiman, Boardmembers Valarie Norman and Barb Chenier

BOARDMEMBERS EXCUSED: Joe Kaplan and City Council Liaison Ralph Blasier

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Peterson, Recreation Director; Brooks Bougie, Recreation Assistant.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Anita Carlson and WDBC/WYKX Representative Craig Woerpel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The board extended a welcome to new boardmember Barb Chenier.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF April 11, 2017

A motion was made by Boardmember Norman, seconded by Vice Chairperson Kleiman, to approve the meeting minutes of April 11, 2017. Motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Chairperson Moore added trees in Ludington Park under New Business Various.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

N/A

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Appointment of a New Vice Chairperson

Recreation Director Peterson thanked Vice Chairperson Kleiman for his service as his term has expired and he will not be seeking a renewal. The vote for a new Vice Chairperson will be postponed to next month's meeting due to the absence of Boardmember Kaplan.

Non-Motorized Pathway System

Recreation Director Peterson explained to the board that she is still waiting for a map and cost estimates from the City Engineer's Office. She stated that the map and cost estimate are almost finalized and then we would have a good idea of the total costs.

Recreation Director Peterson stated that the City will still pursue the grant opportunities, with the earliest one being the Hannahville 2% loan which is due September 30th, Iron Bell grant opportunity becoming available October 1st, MDOT TAP grant funding occurs quarterly and MDNR Trust Fund Grant will be next spring. She stated with all the various grant opportunities she was looking for feedback from the board if it would be worth pursuing a grant administrator. These various grants would be for 2018 with a construction period of 2019 in order for all the grants to line up. A Hannahville 2% Grant could be written for a grant administrator.

Recreation Director Peterson said beginning this fall the City will start contacting all the businesses so everyone is on the same page with the proposed bike path to get everything together before the City starts applying for the various grants.

Review of Winter Sports Budget

Recreation Director Peterson reviewed the current and past totals for number of usage at Royce and Webster Ice Rinks and also a breakdown of the total winter sports budget per year. In regards to the ice skating rinks, she noted that she feels that hockey is more popular than figure skating currently. The yearly numbers are totally weather dependent as some years we might have higher totals than other years. A large portion of the winter sports budget goes towards the up keep of the ice rinks but also included the grooming of the ski trails. She stated that this can go towards anything from a broken window or a repair, to up keep of the rinks and ski trails to use of equipment. A large majority would be labor. She also touched on a centralized ice rink at the Civic Center in order to save on costs for up keep and maintenance. Discussed alternative the rinks also, such as one year having Royce open and the next year having Webster open. She will speak with the Controller's Office for a more accurate breakdown of costs and this item will be kept on the agenda for next month's meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

Project Updates:

Civic Center Usage Update/Program and Activity Update

Recreation Director Peterson stated that she was still waiting for the Senior Center monthly totals, once received she would forward it along to the board.

Dog Park

Recreation Director Peterson stated that there is a grant called Bark for Your Park with a deadline of June 30th. Last year there were 192 applications submitted and 5 got funded for \$25,000 each. She touched on last month's discussion about the location of the dog park, either behind the Civic Center or out by the airport. She stated that there are pros and cons to each location.

Chairperson Moore stated that the airport in her mind is the prime location for the dog park because a dog park should be as big as possible for the dogs to roam and Anita Carlson agreed. The Board would rely on Anita Carlson's input and expertise. Mrs. Carlson has worked on the idea of a dog park since 2008.

Recreation Director Peterson will reach out to Ryan Bergman with the county along with Kelly Smith at the airport; she stated she would take some photos of the area and get an idea what needs to be done before submitting the grant.

The proposal for the dog park will be two sections, one for smaller dogs with the other being for larger dogs; and that the park would incorporate a charging fee just in order to have money for up keep and maintenance.

Various

Chairperson Moore wanted to touch on the issue of trees in the park, in regards to the ash trees and the emerald ash borer. She reviewed what was previously discussed that there was originally money put in the budget for the protection of the ash trees, but it was removed by the City Council and there are zero dollars in the budget for the protection of the ash trees from the emerald ash borer. She then stated that the Citizen's Environmental Advisory Committee might meet again to help the City with this matter. She received an email from Bill Cook, who is a tree expert, and he stated to her that there are grant funds available for this issue and he is willing to help the City where necessary on such concern.

Recreation Director Peterson discussed the possibility of a 50/50 fundraiser to raise funds for the 4th of July fireworks and any other needed projects. She stated the idea came from speaking with a lady at the Delta County Credit Union who previously resided in Bessemer. She then spoke with officials in Bessemer where they raise funds yearly through a 50/50 raffle for their yearly 4th of July fireworks celebration. In 2016 the funds raised from their 50/50 was over \$33,000. She further stated that this is something that cannot be done through the City but rather a non-profit organization such as the Elks, Eagles, etc.

Recreation Director Peterson acknowledged a few grants that were received through the Hannahville 2% grant funds. She stated that the Recreation Department received \$8,000 for the removal of the old flooring and installation of new flooring in the Main Meeting Room at the Civic Center which hasn't been replaced in over twenty years, along with also receiving \$1,500 for an ice skate sharpener for both ice rinks.

MISCELLANEOUS

N/A

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairperson Kleiman motioned to adjourn, seconded by Boardmember Norman, meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Peterson
Recreation Director

Karen Moore, Chairperson

Date