

ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 10, 2016

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, May 10, 2016. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Karen Moore, Vice Chairperson Randy Kleiman and Boardmembers Joe Kaplan and Valarie Norman

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: City Council Liaison Ralph Blasier

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: Mike Segorski

**APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MINUTES- REGULAR MEETINGS:
FEBRUARY9, 2016, AND MARCH 15, 2016**

Boardmember Kaplan asked for a correction to the minutes from the March 15, 2016, Recreation Advisory board meeting in regards to the public hearing regarding support for the Department of Natural Resources Recreation Passport and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Land and Trust Fund Grants. Boardmember Kaplan asked since there wasn't a quorum from the meeting, would it be against procedures to offer the letter of support in regards to the grants. Recreation Director Peterson stated she would get a clarification from City Clerk Bob Richards and verify in which direction to proceed with the matter. The letter of support has already been submitted as part of the grant application packet.

APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy.

Recreation Director Peterson stated that in the meeting packet there was a list that contains the nine missing links and asked if it was the pleasure of the Board to work on prioritizing them. A map was also viewed showing the designated areas. Chairperson Moore stated that just for the record in her opinion in regards to prioritizing the links, one link that is not called out on the map is the connection of the path from Bay into the town via the Viaduct. She stated she felt this would be the most important place to get started and all other links would follow from there. Recreation Director Peterson then stated that this area is not identified in the City's Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. Recreation Director Peterson then stated that CUPAD will be coming in to discuss and help the city prioritize the links in order to get a better plan moving forward. Prioritizing will help in obtaining cost estimates and ultimately funds.

2. Five-Year Recreation Plan.

Recreation Director Peterson stated that she has had discussions with John Harris of Beaten Path in regards to putting in a disc golf course at the ski hill area. The property is certainly plentiful and Mr. Harris is confident he can raise the funding to build the course; he is currently putting together a plan in regards to the creation of the course. She then stated that it is important to start thinking about what is to be included in the Five-Year Recreation Plan in order to get funding for projects; if it is not included in the plan there is no way to apply for federal funding.

Boardmember Kaplan mentioned that property inventory should be a priority to be added to the plan in order to let the public know and get a better idea into what the City has in regards to total property. Recreation Director Peterson stated that the Recreation Department is currently in the process of putting together a booklet of all the recreational parks and recreation facilities within the City.

Mike Segorski stated that he wanted to touch on a few points that he would like to see get included in the Five-Year Recreation Plan, including the North 30th Street recreation area to include the ski hill. He discussed creating a land use outline and property inventory within the City and also how to build up and improve the land use of the North 30th recreation area. He also touched on Veterans Park and how the City could improve and dedicate the park more in regards to our veterans. He stated placing plaques or some type of monument in order to recognize our veterans and something for the public to see and overall to just make the area more appealing.

Chairperson Moore then brought up the addition of a dog park within the City and thinking of potential areas that it could be built.

Boardmember Norman also mentioned possibly building a skate park that is accessible to the kids within the City, to have some place for the kids that like to skateboard to go.

Chairperson Moore also asked if there could be anything done to make the Aronson Island boat launch look more appealing and clean it up.

Recreation Director Peterson stated that these suggestions are all great ideas and that a plan needs to be created for them so they can be incorporated into the Five-Year Recreation Plan. Recreation Director Peterson ended the discussion with mentioning potentially putting in a bocce ball area at the park and that the Recreation Department has purchased equipment and nets for outdoor pickle ball play and the area to be used is one of the old basketball courts near Lemerand Park.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Project Updates.

A) Civic Center Usage/Program and Activity Update.

Recreation Director Peterson stated figures are needed from the senior center so the report can be complete and will forward it when done. The Civic Center closed for the summer for the kids on April 30th, allowing the department to complete maintenance projects within the facility. She then mentioned that the Civic Center purchased eight new disc golf sets that can be rented out at the Civic Center free of charge.

B) Summer Programs

Recreation Director Peterson stated that included in the meeting packet is a Summer Brochure for all summer programs including swimming lessons, upcoming events, soccer, etc.

C) Various.

Boardmember Kaplan touched on the Emerald Ash and stated that once they hit that the majority of the trees at the park will be wiped out and just wanted to make mention that it is something to be prepared for and possibly add some language into the Five-Year Recreation Plan.

Recreation Director Peterson touched on the illegal dumping in the ski hill area. She stated that concrete barricades have been placed on the road entrance to the ski hill area to block access for people in order to stop the dumping within the area. Security signs and cameras will also be installed and posted accordingly. She stated that you will be fined if caught dumping your trash. A media release has been done on such.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

MISCELLANEOUS

None

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairperson Kleiman motioned to adjourn, seconded by Boardmember Kaplan, meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Peterson
Recreation Director

Karen Moore, Chairperson

Date