

## ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, August 8, 2017. 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, Boardmembers Valarie Norman, Joe Kaplan, Barb Chenier and Patty Woerpel

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim Peterson, Recreation Director; Brooks Bougie, Recreation Assistant; Ralph Blasier, City Council Liaison

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** WDBC/WYKX Representative Craig Woerpel

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

### **APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2017**

A motion was made by Boardmember Patty Woerpel, seconded by Valarie Norman, to approve the meeting minutes of June 13, 2017. Motion was approved unanimously.

### **APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

None.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Appointment of a New Vice Chairperson**

Recreation Director Peterson stated Vice Chairperson Kleiman's term on the board has expired effective June 1, 2017. The vote for a new Vice Chairperson will be postponed to next month's meeting.

#### **Non-Motorized Pathway System**

Recreation Director Peterson stated she is working on compiling information and grant requirements on four different grants that will be submitted over the next six months for the north side non-motorized pathway system. The grants will consist of Hannahville 2%, Iron Bell, MDOT TAP and MDNR Trust Fund.

CUPPAD recently awarded the City of Escanaba \$2,500 from the Michigan Regional Prosperity Grant. The Board discussed various sections of the non-motorized pathway plan that could be implemented with such funds. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and Lake Shore Drive were discussed as priorities and would be approximately \$800 more than the \$2,500 grant received. Discussions and support took place on completing as much work as possible with the \$2,500 and if the remaining amount was a low dollar amount, administration and City Council would be approached to complete such sections of the non-motorized pathway.

The grant deadline for project completion is June 30, 2018.

**A motion was made by Valarie Norman, seconded by Patty Woerpel, to prioritize 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and then Lake Shore Drive with the recent \$2,500 grant award from CUPPAD. Motion was approved unanimously.**

### **Review of Winter Sports Budget**

Recreation Director Peterson reviewed the idea of a refrigerated rink with costs estimating between \$25,000 and \$100,000 depending on size of the structure. Utilities to run such refrigeration system are approximately \$300.

Recreation Director Peterson stated since the previous meetings and with the social media reporting information on the ice rinks she had only received one call requesting any new ice rink facility be named after Carl Eastman. Mr. Eastman worked as an ice rink attendant for the City for many years at the Webster Ice Rink.

Patty Woerpel stated she had discussions with others as to implementing an ice rink at Ludington Park.

Discussions took place on the best possible location for a rink. Boardmembers were asked to look at the Civic Center location and Ludington Park to determine a location. Cost estimates for both locations will be looked at. Pros and Cons to various locations were looked at with regard to restrooms, lighting, staffing, convenience, concessions, etc.

Recreation Director Peterson stated the budget for 2017-18 is set and funds have been approved to still have two ice rinks this coming season at Webster and Royce. However, she stressed the importance of discussions starting now to look at alternatives for the ice rinks. She further stated that weather is always a big factor on determining use as to how long the rinks remain open during a winter season. Maintenance and staffing both rinks and warming shelters seems to pose a concern every year.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

N/A

### **NEW BUSINESS**

## **Project Updates:**

### **Civic Center Usage Update/Program and Activity Update**

Recreation Director Peterson reviewed the June usage for the Civic Center building. She stated pickleball is very popular in the Civic Center gym.

### **Dog Park**

Recreation Director Peterson stated the City of Escanaba was the only U.P. community to submit a grant to the Bark for Your Park. Awards will be released in August with five communities receiving \$25,000 grant. The closest area to Escanaba to apply for the same funding was Appleton, Wisconsin.

### **Various**

Recreation Director Peterson stated the City received a Hannahville 2% grant to replace the carpeting in the Civic Center main meeting room with tile. The floor is installed and the room will be painted to completely update it. The room is very popular to rent out for various activities.

An Open House is planning planned on September 11<sup>th</sup> to welcome students back to the Civic Center for the upcoming season. Hours of operation will be Monday – Friday 2:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Staff discussed the hours and it was determined that closing the facility at 8:00 p.m. would take place for this coming season. Previously the Civic Center was closed at 9:00 p.m.

This year is the Civic Center's 50<sup>th</sup> year of being in operation. A celebration is being planned on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Marjie Heller worked as a part-time Civic Center Attendant for numerous years and recently accepted a full-time position as Meter Reader with the Utility Department. This position will be filled for the upcoming season.

A recent movie night took place in the Park on July 14<sup>th</sup>. This event was greatly attended and a grant was written for the equipment to display a movie again the park. The equipment was utilized by a family who previously lived in the area and were in Escanaba on vacation for two weeks from Florida.

A grant was written for an ADA compliant water fountain at Al Ness Field. Patt Abramson recently donated \$150,000 to construct a parking lot at the Lemerand Field Complex. There is currently a water line that runs under the proposed parking lot location that will be abandoned. This water line supplies water to the drinking fountain at the Al Ness Field.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

N/A

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Joe Kaplan, seconded by Valarie Norman, to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Peterson  
Recreation Director

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Karen Moore, Chairperson

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Date