

ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, August 13, 2019. 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 and Boardmember Barb Chenier

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

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmember Patti Woerpel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 11, 2019

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Kaplan, seconded by Boardmember Chenier, to approve the meeting minutes of June 11, 2019. Motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Community Action Agency Lease Renewal

Recreation Director Peterson reviewed the current language of the annual lease agreement between the City of Escanaba and the Community Action Agency for space at the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center. Recreation Director Peterson requested

a motion by the board to recommend City Council approve the annual lease agreement.

A motion was made by Boardmember Chenier, seconded by Vice Chairperson Kaplan, to recommend City Council approve the annual lease agreement between the City of Escanaba and the Community Action Agency for space at the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center. Motion was approved unanimously.

2. Discussion on City-Owned Property and Identifying Property Boundaries

Recreation Director Peterson discussed City property boundaries as they are not clearly identified when located near neighboring properties. An identifiable marker would be created to determine City property lines. This project is included in the Five-Year Recreation Plan and identified as a Priority #1.

Discussion took place on a recent situation which could have been avoided if the property boundaries were identified and respected. It was the Board consensus to work on this project to avoid any future concerns and/or damage to City property.

The Board would consider Lake Shore Drive and 23rd Avenue South, Veteran's Park north and south boundaries and Lake Shore Drive on the south end a priority to start with. Recreation Director Peterson will work with the Public Works and Engineering Departments to see what needs to take place to get this project started. It is uncertain if the Engineering Department can identify the property lines or if a survey will need to be conducted.

3. Project Updates

Civic Center Usage/Program and Activity Update

Recreation Director Peterson reviewed the Civic Center usage report from July 2019.

Oak Wilt

Vice Chairperson Kaplan continues to review information on oak wilt and City Council Liaison Blasier has spoken of such at a recent City Council meeting. This item will remain on future meeting agendas for further discussion.

Vice Chairperson Kaplan stated that he is now certified to treat ash bore and had recently submitted a bid to the City for services. The bid will be on an upcoming City Council meeting agenda for approval. It was the Board consensus to have ash bore on future meeting agendas for further discussion.

Discussion took place on requesting the Citizen Environmental Advisory Committee be reactivated to discuss the various diseases of trees within the City. City Council Liaison Blasier will bring this to the City Manager and Mayor for determination.

Discussion on Splash Park Location and Grant Opportunities

Recreation Director Peterson discussed the possibility of a new splash pad for the City and possible grant opportunities. She would like to apply for the Recreation Passport Grant to place a new splash pad at the Webster Wading Pool site.

Recreation Director Peterson stated the past summer, once again, created maintenance work at the pool with 18' of pipe being cut out of the base of the pool and the loss of 24,000 gallons of water per day for approximately five days. The pool has been pieced together throughout 25+ years with maintenance and continued repairs. The site currently has the infrastructure needed to construct a new splash pad.

The splash pad wouldn't have any water retained, therefore, no lifeguards would be needed. There are a couple different splash pads with utilizing recycled water with filters and chemicals or utilizing water and being charged from the meter. Information will be gathered and reviewed by administration in order to move forward with the best possible option. A splash pad is listed in the Five-Year Recreation Plan.

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Kaplan, seconded by Boardmember Chenier, to give authorization for Recreation Director Peterson to proceed with the Recreation Passport Grant application for a splash pad at the Webster Wading Pool site. Motion was approved unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS

Recreation Director Peterson updated the board on various projects to include the following:

Harbor Hideout recently stained.

906 Day will take place on September 6th with a local band at the Karas Bandshell. This will be the last City event for the year.

Michigan/Wisconsin Tennis Tournament had 63 participants.

Dog Park is open and has been heavily utilized. Funds will be sought to plant mature trees in the spring 2020. There was a concern from a hangar owner about de-icing the planes and water contamination for the hand pump that was recently installed. Recreation Director Peterson stated that DEQ and Public Health both signed off on the well pump and the Water Department did run a test as well. There are no concerns as far as she is concerned and knows of. She will reach out to the airport, Water Department and Public Health for reassurance.

The beach was groomed and widened prior to opening this season. There isn't much room to work with as the dune and grass needs to remain between the parking lot and sand beach to prevent further erosion. The area cleared concentrated where the lifeguards and beach house is located. The pool and beach will close for the season on August 14th since there will be no staff as they leave for college and school sports.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Kaplan, seconded by Boardmember Chenier, to adjourn with the time being 7:15 p.m. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Peterson, Recreation Director

Karen Moore, Chairperson

Date