

ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, September 11, 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, Boardmembers Patty Woerpel, Barb Chenier, Valarie Norman and City Council Liaison Ralph Blasier

OTHERS PRESENT: Recreation Director Kim Peterson, Recreation Assistant Brooks Bougie, Mike Segorski, Jordan Beck (Daily Press), Craig Woerpel (WDBC Radio) and Mark Cowman (TV6 News)

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chairperson Joe Kaplan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 10, 2018

A motion was made by Boardmember Woerpel, seconded by Boardmember Chenier, to approve the meeting minutes of July 10, 2018. Motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Recreation Director Peterson stated under unfinished business a discussion on the West Side Ski Park and Veterans Park would be added as the 3rd item.

Chairperson Moore stated that she had comments to be added under various in new business that dealt with dead trees on Aronson Island.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dog Park Discussion

Recreation Director Peterson stated that \$5,000 was received from a Prosperous Places 2018 Grant being administered by CUPPAD. \$12,000 was also received from a private citizen who wishes to remain anonymous. She also spoke with a potential corporate sponsor on additional funding to complete the proposed dog park.

Discussion was held that if the dog park was going to be named after the corporate sponsor, an amount would have to be determined for such that it is significant enough to warrant the naming of it. Discussed having the pavilion named after the corporate sponsor.

Recreation Director Peterson touched on the scope of work which included a 5' fence surrounding the 1.5 acre park, with 1 acre for large dogs separated by the other .5 acre for small dogs. She stated that if labor was donated that it would significantly cut the costs of construction by approximately \$10,000. The proposed total scope of work totals \$20,100 with volunteers donating their time for construction. The covered pavilion materials would cost approximately \$4,100 and could be done at a later date along with additional benches and agility items.

The covered pavilion would need a permit submitted to the FAA and approval is received within thirty days.

There was a brief discussion on registration forms and fees and how to go about setting that process up. Recreation Director Peterson stated that it would be a good idea to hold off on registration at the beginning and just focus on the construction at this time. Once the city sees the popularity of the park, at that time the City can look into initiating a registration program if concerns arise

The Engineering Department will finalize a dog park layout and this will be submitted to the Delta County Airport. Contact will be made with a few construction companies to see if there is interest for a contractor to supervise the project by donating their time.

Centralized Ice Rink

Recreation Director Peterson stated that the City is looking into combining the Webster and Royce Park ice rinks into one centralized rink located at the Civic Center. Due to low numbers the past few years and warmer weather, this seems like the most economical way to still provide a service. Creating one centralized ice rink would cut down on overall costs including maintenance costs. The previous winter the city spent \$41,000 on the maintenance and upkeep of the two rinks and roughly \$30,000 the previous year. There have been many factors in the past few years that have caused the decline of usage including weather. Having the ice rink at the Civic Center will also allow for additional activities for users, such as the gym, game room, lap tops, wi-fi, board games, books, etc. The Civic Center also allows students to walk from the Upper Elementary, Junior High and High School after school and allows them to skate longer with a warming shelter since a full supervised staff works Monday to Friday from 2:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Rubber matting would need to be placed within the Civic Center to allow access

to benches and restrooms and would cost approximately \$5,500 and would depend on what areas would be accessible to skaters without removing their skates to enter the facility. Lighting would cost \$1,000 a fixture to install as the infrastructure is already on site. The Water Department is reviewing the process of flooding the rinks that took place previously to determine the cost involved with such.

Recreation Director Peterson stated that there will be a public hearing on the ice rinks next month and encouraged citizens to come out to express their opinions in regards to this matter.

The centralizing of the ice rinks is noted in the Five-Year Recreation Plan.

West Side Ski Park/Veteran's Park

Volunteer Mike Segorski touched on the current status of the West Side Ski Park and stated that at this time he cannot give an update or report because it has been turned over to Glenn Vandewater for an assessment of the area. However, Mr. Segorski stated that the trails are being mowed and that trees and brush are in constant need of being removed; he also stated that he has not had any issues with waste water as of yet this year. He has spread out 120 yards of woodchips along the trail.

Mr. Segorski went on to explain that he strongly encourages the closure and deconstruction of the North 30th St trail access site. He stated that it is used minimally by hikers and dog walkers along with issues of trash dumping, human waste and being a traffic hazard.

Mr. Segorski also touched on Veteran's Park and the possible construction of a veteran's memorial along with improvements at the park. He suggested building a memorial around the liberty tree with paver bricks around the tree in the formation of a five pointed star, one point for each branch of the service; also to include a commemorative plaque. He also suggested possibly adding some benches, picnic tables some barbecues and trash receptacles on the waterfront side of Veteran's Park. He did have concerns with parking being scarce in this area and having users park across the street and the speed limit is 30 mph, with a few blocks being away the speed limit is 25 mph.

NEW BUSINESS

Project Updates:

Civic Center Usage Update/Program and Activity Update

Recreation Director Peterson reviewed the Civic Center Usage report for August with the board and stated that the Civic Center opened September 10th to the students for the school year.

Movie Night in October

Recreation Director Peterson stated that the City is looking at holding another Movie Night in the park around Halloween and has put out feelers on social media to see what suggestions and dates are popular. She stated that the movie nights have been very popular this past summer.

Various

906 Day was very popular with a very good turnout; Lakeshore Live is scheduled for this Saturday, September 15th from 1:00-11:00 pm and will feature local bands along with food vendors.

Chairperson Moore stated she had a concern about dead trees on Aronson Island and that they blocking the views of the water. Mike Segorski stated that they could not be removed due to a migratory bird project that was created on the island but something could be looked into to see what could be done. Vice Chairperson Kaplan is involved with the migratory bird enhancement project and he will be asked to give an update on the project at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

Chairperson Moore stated that she has friends that play pickleball and that the sport has become increasingly popular and that she has heard from many of them that they want to find a space to build some indoor courts. Recreation Director Peterson stated there currently is an outdoor court and the Civic Center gym is utilized for three courts during the week. There are various dates and times throughout the week that the gym is utilized for pickleball, however, most want to play late morning and this allows for three days a week (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday). Earlier times are available if they choose to play then also.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Boardmember Norman, seconded by Boardmember Chenier, to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m. Motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Peterson, Recreation Director

Karen Moore, Chairperson

Date