

**ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, October 9, 2018**

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, October 9, 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, Vice Chairperson Joe Kaplan, Boardmembers Patty Woerpel, Barb Chenier, Valarie Norman and City Council Liaison Ralph Blasier

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Recreation Director Kim Peterson, Recreation Assistant Brooks Bougie, Mark Cowman (TV6 News)

**BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2018**

A motion was made by Boardmember Norman, seconded by Boardmember Woerpel, to approve the meeting minutes of September 11, 2018. Motion was approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

None.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**1. Centralized Ice Rink**

Recreation Director Peterson stated she had spoken to the Water Department after last month's meeting and it was proposed to tie into the current system at the Civic Center with the water hose. Years ago the Civic Center was the location of the city ice rink. The cost estimated to install the new water line connection would be anywhere from \$1,500 to \$5,000. Rubber matting would also be placed so access to the Civic Center restrooms and facility can be utilized. The winter budget includes operations and maintenance of ice rinks so funds are available.

Discussed the ice rink being centrally located so students can walk from the Upper Elementary and High School. The new location would allow for longer hours of a

warming shelter to be available. Previously the rinks were open during the week from 5 – 8:00 p.m. and now they would be open from 2:30 – 8:00 p.m. The ice rink can be used prior to those times, but the warming shelter will coincide when the Civic Center building is open which is Monday – Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 12 – 8:00 p.m. The Civic Center is a supervised facility and the game room, gym, wi-fi, board games and laptops can also be utilized.

Discussed Webster School and how it is now designated for kindergarten students and is located right next to the Webster Ice Skating Rink.

**A motion was made by Boardmember Norman, seconded by Vice Chairperson Kaplan, to proceed with the centralized ice rink to be located at the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center. Motion was approved unanimously.**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **1. Dog Park Discussion**

Recreation Director Peterson stated she had received quotes for the signage of the dog park that came in at \$600, \$1,400 below the budget of \$2,000. Delta Fence will be overseeing the project at no cost as volunteers will be used to construct the park and Delta Fence will supervise. The FAA requires a new application to be filed and could take sixty days, so a firm timeline has not been determined.

The Board reviewed rules that are being proposed for a sign.

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.

A lease agreement will be drafted and will go before the City Council for approval.

**A motion was made by Boardmember Chenier, seconded by Boardmember Norman, to proceed with the dog park and order the needed materials and signage. Motion was approved unanimously.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Escanaba Migratory Bird Enhancement Initiative (EMBEI) Update**

Vice Chairperson Kaplan gave an update on EMBEI, which was prompted from concern of Chairperson Moore of fallen trees on Aronson Island. Vice Chairperson Kaplan stated that a second Purple Martin box was installed this year for a total of six. Escanaba is the only City to have an active colony of Purple Martins; the species is declining and last year the City was down to two nesting pairs. As of this year they have produced twenty-nine chicks. Purple Martin was spotted in Alger County for the first time in thirty-five years.

Vice Chairperson Kaplan stated he is meeting with a representative from a company next week to find a treatment for Emerald Ash Borer, which would be a much cheaper alternative to having to cut them all down and get them hauled away.

## **2. Project Updates:**

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

Recreation Director Peterson reviewed the Civic Center Usage report for September with the board.

### **Movie Night in October**

Recreation Director Peterson stated that the movie for Movie Night in the Park would be Hocus Pocus, scheduled for Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at the band shell. The movie night was made possible from a donation by Great Lakes First Federal Credit Union. Binks Coca-Cola donated all the drinks and the band Sit Down Francis collected money for candy for the movie night.

### **Aronson Island-Discussion of Arboretum**

Chairperson Moore wanted to know what the guidelines for an Arboretum are. Vice Chairperson Kaplan stated that the closest example the city has is the one at Bay College. Recreation Director Peterson stated this is a perfect discussion point for the vision plan that MIG will be conducting through the CVB. She will forward the plan documents to the Board for their review. The CVB is looking to do a vision plan for Ludington Park and Van Cleve Park at no cost to the Cities.

### **Various**

Recreation Director Peterson stated that the Learning Center reached out to her for playground equipment, specifically the playground equipment at the old Jefferson Elementary School. This must be approved by City Council in order to donate the equipment; therefore a motion is needed to go to the council for approval. There currently are three sets of swings, one set of eight swings and two sets of six swings.

**A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Kaplan, seconded by Boardmember Chenier, to recommend to the City Council donation of a set of swing sets to the Learning Center. Motion was approved unanimously.**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Boardmember Woerpel mentioned since the City is looking into moving the ice rink to the Civic Center; the City should look into putting a soccer field in at Royce Park. Discussed baseball still taking place at Royce and how there are six soccer fields located at the Bay Side Soccer Field site, along with one field in Ludington Park. The 4/5 and 6/7 year old program is run at the Ludington Park site.

Bay College was thanked for their twenty volunteers who helped maintain trails at the West Side Ski Park last weekend under the direction of volunteer Mike Segorski.

### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Kaplan to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Peterson, Recreation Director

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Karen Moore, Chairperson

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Date