

**ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, June 14, 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 main meeting room of the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center.

**BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Karen Moore, Boardmembers Joe Kaplan and Valarie Norman and City Council Liaison Ralph Blasier

**BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT:** Vice Chairperson Randy Kleiman

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim Peterson, Recreation Director  
Brooks Bougie, Recreation Office Assistant  
Anne Milne, CUPPAD, Community Planner

**APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2016**

A motion was made by Boardmember Kaplan, seconded by Boardmember Norman, to approve the meeting minutes of May 10, 2016. Motion was approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

None

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Non-Motorized Transportation Plan and Investment Strategy**

Recreation Director Peterson stated the plan is continuing along with another steering committee meeting to be held next week. There is a training wheels session on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, that MDOT is conducting with approximately twenty key stakeholders in the community and surrounding areas. This education course is for the planning and design of on-road bicycle paths. The group will analyze the types of on-road paths presently available and what is needed. This session will allow a hands-on look at the bike path system throughout the City by way of a biking tour.

Anne Milne stated letters have been sent to each township with an inventory of trails they currently have and this will allow them to comment on such. CUPPAD is focusing on planning public participation input sessions. There is currently a survey on line that has not been publicized yet, but CUPPAD is still trying to obtain information. The plan will be completed by December 2016.

### **Five-Year Recreation Plan**

Recreation Director Peterson stated the process of updating the Five-Year Recreation Plan has started with CUPPAD.

Anne Milne stated they are currently working on updating the Five-Year Recreation Plan and hope to have a rough draft to the Board in September. Public participation will be sought and various ways of obtaining information will be done.

Items that were discussed by the Board that they would like to see incorporated in the updated Five-Year Recreation Plan area as follows:

- Disc golf at the ski hill area
- Bocce ball within Ludington Park
- Skate park
- Dog park
- Tree replacement (ash trees)
- Identifying property boundaries which are owned by the City
- Move ski hill access to behind the Great Lakes Sports Club on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
- Development of Veteran's Park
- Migratory bird enhancement
- Reassess the ski trails on the west side ski park off of North 30<sup>th</sup> Street
- Define borders on North 30<sup>th</sup> Street to include a property inventory of ground cover

The Board discussed having more opportunities for teens to do within the community. Possibly reaching out to the vet's office and Delta County Animal Shelter on a survey for a dog park. Discussed storm water management and green infrastructure with a progressing tree planting strategy.

Recreation Director Peterson will reach out to Iron Mountain on their bocce ball courts to find out where the balls are stored or if they rent them out.

### **Letter of Support**

Recreation Director Peterson stated the Recreation Advisory Board sent a letter of support on the Park and Play Structure as part of two DNR grants that were applied for on a consensus of the board as there was not a quorum and the grant paperwork needed to be submitted before the next regularly scheduled meeting.

**A motion was made by Valarie Norman, seconded by Karen Moore, to approve a letter of support that was submitted on behalf of the Recreation Advisory Board on the Park and Play Structure.**

**Ayes: Boardmember Norman and Chairperson Moore**

**Nays: Boardmember Kaplan**

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Project Updates**

#### **A) Civic Center Usage/Program and Activity Update.**

The Civic Center Usage Report will be e-mailed out to boardmembers and is located on the City's website. Average daily usage was 98 for May 2016. Pickleball is becoming extremely popular with more people joining and taking an interest in playing which is held at the Civic Center in the gym.

#### **B) Summer Programs**

Summer programs are starting with the soccer program for 6/7 year olds starting on Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Tennis was cancelled as only two people signed up – this will be evaluated next year. It is hoped to open the beach up within the next week based on weather. The Webster Wading Pool needs to be painted and will be open within a couple of weeks.

#### **C) Dog Park**

Recreation Director Peterson urged boardmembers to tour the water department area in front of the facility for the possibility of a dog park location. There would be restrooms available at the marina nearby and a water source would be in the area as well. Fencing, benches, garbage receptacles and dog bag dispenser would be needed.

#### **D) Various**

Recreation Director Peterson stated the ski hill area is being patrolled for motorized vehicles and illegal dumping. A joint effort is taking place with the DNR, Escanaba Public Safety and the Sheriff's Department for patrols. Brick barricades have been placed on North 48<sup>th</sup> Street and behind the ski hill area to prevent motorized vehicles and illegal dumping and seems to be working to

date. This will continue to be monitored and the bricks behind the ski hill area will be moved for snowmobilers when the season comes.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**MISCELLANEOUS**

None

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Boardmember Kaplan, seconded by Boardmember Norman, to adjourn the meeting with the time being 7:05 p.m. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Peterson  
Recreation Director

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Karen Moore, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date