

ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 12, 2016

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, July 12, 2016. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Peterson, Recreation Director

PUBLIC PRESENT: Ann Milne, Anita Carlson and Mary Blasier

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ralph Blasier stated flyball will be taking place at the Fairgrounds on July 30th and 31st.

Karen Moore stated the Delta County Master Gardener's Club is having a garden tour with tickets for sale touring seven different gardens this Sunday from 1 – 4:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 at Gust Asp, Wickert's, Flinn's, Main Event and IGA.

Joe Kaplan stated Jenny Gylock and the Federal Peninsula Credit Union helped weed the recent plantings at Veteran's Park before the Fourth of July holiday. He thanked the group for their help.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2016

A motion was made by Joe Kaplan, seconded by Valarie Norman, to approve the meeting minutes of June 14, 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 she would like the Board's input on prioritizing the missing sections to connect the City with a non-motorized pathway. Once a list is completed based on priority, cost estimates can be obtained. This will allow the opportunity to actively seek funding and be incorporated into the Five-Year Recreation Plan. The Engineering Department is working on a cost estimate for the top priority which was previously discussed at meetings from Sheridan Road to 20th Avenue North west to North Lincoln Road south. This section will also include a tunnel under the viaduct.

The Board will hold a worksession prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting to concentrate strictly on the non-motorized pathway.

Information from the recent Training Wheels – Bicycle Facility Design Training will also be reviewed at this time. The presentation will be placed on the City's website and forwarded to the boardmembers.

Five-Year Recreation Plan

Recreation Director Peterson updated the board on the Five-Year Recreation Plan process. CUPPAD provided a draft Five-Year Recreation Plan for review. The board will have a public hearing at their next regular meeting to seek citizen input. It is anticipated to seek public input and have the board adopt the plan in the late fall and bring to the City Council before end of year for final approval and implementation.

Anita Carlson stated she was in favor of a dog park and has worked on this project for a couple of years. She has a file of information and will share it with the board. Discussed the area at the athletic field being used for dogs, however, the school terminated such use with people abusing the space and not picking up after their dogs.

Various areas were discussed for the possibility of a dog park. The Board was in favor of the Water Department area for a dog park. More information will be needed such as liability, waivers and dog vaccination verifications. Recreation Director Peterson will check with neighboring communities to see how their dog parks are operated. Also discussed separating times for little and big dogs or a separated fence with enough space in between, but not sure if there would be adequate space to do so. Some communities have used a key card to access dog parks and other have used a dog tag on their collar for visual verification that the dogs have had all vaccinations.

Bocce Ball is very popular in Iron Mountain and they provide the court and not the bocce balls. The Civic Center could purchase the balls when time comes and they could be checked out at no cost. A court could be placed within Ludington Park for the greatest exposure.

The board was in agreement with the continued list of possible projects to be included in the Five-Year Recreation Plan. They are as followed:

- Disc Golf Course at Ski Hill Area
- Bocce Ball Within Ludington Park
- Skate Park
- Dog Park Near the Water Department
- City-Owned Property – tree replacement (ash) and maintenance
- City-Owned Property – identify property boundaries
- West Side Ski Park – move ski area access from North 30th Street to behind the sports club off of 19th Avenue North
- West Side Ski Park – reassess ski trails
- West Side Ski Park – define borders on North 30th Street – property inventory (wetlands, uplands, etc.), secure area of unwanted activities, promote growth and wildlife
- Veteran’s Park Development
- Migratory Bird Enhancement Initiative

PUBLIC HEARING

None

NEW BUSINESS

Project Updates

A) Civic Center Usage/Program and Activity Update

Recreation Director Peterson stated figures are needed from the senior center so the report can be complete and will forward it when done. A new facility inventory booklet was distributed and posted on the City’s website and facebook accounts.

B) Dog Park

This was discussed under the Five-Year Recreation Plan agenda item.

C) Various

The Fourth of July Fireworks display was discussed. Due to the winds picking up the show was much shorter than in previous years. More fireworks were

lite at a time, versus one being lite and waiting for another one. The no parking on grass was well received with just a few complaints. The same number of portable restrooms were located throughout the Ludington Park during the Fourth of July, however, some people stated the number was down. Public Safety was commended for their work on controlling the illegal fireworks within Ludington Park.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

MISCELLANEOUS

None

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Boardmember Kaplan motioned to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairperson Kleiman, meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Peterson
Recreation Director

Karen Moore, Chairperson

Date