PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**REGULAR MEETING**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016 – 7:30 p.m.**

# City Hall Council Chambers

301 W. Main St. Owosso, MI 48867

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Espich called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was recited.

**ROLL CALL:** Was taken by Deputy City Clerk Roxane Cramer.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mike Espich, Vice Chair Jeff Selbig, and Commissioner Randy Woodworth.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioners Shane Nelson and Kristen Woodbury.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager/Director of Community Development; Glenn Chinavare, Utilities Director.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA: COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 13, 2016, SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.**

**AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: VICE-CHAIR SELBIG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 22, 2016 WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, MOTION SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER WOODBURY NOT COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH,**

**SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH.**

**AYES ALL, MOTION CARRIED**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chairman Espich expressed his appreciation of serving on the commission and his appreciation of Crisler

Arena.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Staff memorandum
2. Minutes from November 22, 2016

**BUSINESS:**

**Changing the ordinance to increase the number of commission members from five to seven**.

Chairman Espich explained that Vice-Chair Selbig had suggested this and it had been discussed previously.

Ms. Montenegro reported that she felt the council would support this and it would help the commission obtain a quorum more regularly. It would take four out of seven members to have a quorum. Ms. Montenegro stated she would put it on the agenda to set the public hearing Monday, December 19th and the public hearing would be January 3rd. If approved the change would take effect 20 days after the public hearing.

Commissioner Woodworth stated he felt it was necessary to increase the number of members.

**MOTION BY WOODWORTH TO ASK COUNCIL TO CHANGE THE COMMISSION SIZE FROM 5 TO 7 MEMBERS.**

**SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.**

**ALL AYES MOTION CARRIED.**

**DISCUSSION OF UPDATING THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

Discussion of Parks & Recreation Master Plan Updates for the following parks:

***8) GROVE HOLMAN PARK***

*Location:* Southwest Owosso near State Highway M-52

*Size:* 6.0 Acres

*Key Observations:*

~~1. This park primarily served the community with a swimming pool. The pool was closed in August 2005 and reopened with a local fund raiser for the 2006 season. The pool has subsequently closed permanently and demolition has begun.~~

~~2. In 2010, a sledding hill was constructed.~~

1. Park has a sledding hill.

2. Park is underutilized during the rest of the year.

3. Possible future location of skating rink.

*2011 Park Plan Components:*

~~1. Evaluate the potential for the former pool area to be used for ice skating or some other winter activities to create a critical mass of wintery fun that will promote the park’s winter identity~~.

1. House the Skate Park.

2. Investigate the potential to turn the pool building into a winter warming house with bathrooms,

concessions and other fun stuff.

3. Install park sign at SE corner of Hampton and Walnut Streets ~~(no sign on M-52)~~ Signage along M-52.

~~4. Consider a leveling of the hill or the construction of a wooden platform at the top.~~

*Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix?* Yes, a sketch of a sledding hill at **Exhibit H.**

***7) BENTLEY COMMUNITY PARK***

*Location:* On State Highway M-52 in south Owosso.

*Size: 8.2 Acres*

*Key Observations:*

~~1. The park has developed as a community park serving the entire city and very likely regional~~

~~citizens and organizations.~~

~~2. The industrial boundaries on the north and east and the major thoroughfare boundaries on the~~

~~south and west isolate this park from safe approaches by any means other than automobile.~~

~~3. There is a large residential neighborhood round the park.~~

1. Over the last five years this park has been updated to include placement of a new gazebo, splash pad,

playscape, a new ice rink has been added to the newly resurfaced tennis courts.

2. More people now attend and use this park.

*2011 Park Plan Components:*

~~1. Construct a playscape in two phases (a splash pad should be considered as an alternate for the~~

~~second phase).~~

2. A new sand volleyball court will be constructed.

~~3. The tennis courts will be resurfaced and potentially outlined with evergreens on the south and~~

~~west for wind buffer and reduced interference from highway traffic.~~

~~4. The open space area will continue to be reviewed for ice skating potential but does not have a~~

~~specific plan recommendation.~~

5. ~~A 2,000’~~ Add a perimeter running path. ~~will provide a fitness facility~~.

~~6. An added land dimension on the north side will provide better 90 degree parking and/or~~

~~facilities that relate to a trailhead. The land would be acquired or leased from Consumer’s~~

~~Power.~~

~~7. Add 6 covered tables and benches~~.

*Site Plan or Graphics in Appendix?* None

***4) FAYETTE SQUARE***

*Location:* In the Original Plat of the City of Owosso at Washington and Oliver Streets.

*Size:* 1.1 acres

*Key Observations:*

1. This park ~~has a~~ is in need of a partner for development, ~~and some~~ maintenance and care.—~~the~~

~~Owosso Master Gardeners Club.~~ A site plan for the park lays out planting areas and preferred

species; however, this plan has been modified to include future benches that surround an area

dedicated to veterans.

2. In the center of the western portion of the park is a circular gathering place that contains a

number of war memorials. The area within this circle is referred to as “veterans circle,”

and is landscaped by volunteers.

*2011 Park Plan Components:*

1. The park needs a sign at both the Washington/Oliver corner and the Park/Oliver corner. The

sign material requires attention for compatibility for this historic district of Owosso.

2. The park plan recommends a trellis structure for an entryway to the park at

Washington and Oliver Streets.- If the trellis is at the park remove from Park Plan and move to Key

observations

~~3. Construct a low-profile, low-tech creative play space in southeast park area.~~

~~4. Add four additional benches in the approaches to the veterans circle.~~

5. ~~Continue the garden development over the short and long term~~. Develop a garden maintenance

Program.

*Site Plan or Graphics in the Appendix?* Yes, a site plan (which has been subsequently amended) of the garden layout in the Appendix, **Exhibit Q**.

Commissioners discussed some changes for Rudy Demuth Field; however, they felt they needed to speak with someone more involved with the field for their input for changes. Commissioners will make recommendations on this park at a later date.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH TO ACCEPT THE CHANGES AS PRESENTED FOR GROVE HOLMAN, FAYETTE SQUARE AND BENTLEY PARKS TO THE PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN, SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.**

**ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH TO HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON**

**JANUARY 10, 2017 AT 7:30 P.M. TO DISCUSS THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER**

**PLAN. SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.**

**ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**COMMISSIONER WOODWORTH MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:42 P.M., SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR SELBIG.**

**ALL AYES, MOTION CARRIED.**