

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Park & Recreation Commission
Conference Room, City Hall
March 28, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chairperson Ladd.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary, Marty Stinson.

Members Present: Commissioners Terri Brown, Sherri Chavora, Jerry Hebekeuser, Chairperson Marsha Ladd.

Members Absent: Commissioner Carolyn Lawrence (resigning); vacancy.

Others Present: Adam Zettel, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development; City Council Members Gary Martenis and Cindy Popovitch; Dave Tooley, Sales Associate from Miracle of Michigan & Indiana for playground equipment.

Approve Agenda for March 28, 2011:

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Chavora.

Ayes: all, motion carried

Approve Minutes from January 24, 2011 (correction), February 28, 2011 and March 8, 2011 meetings:

A motion to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2011 meeting with the correction of showing Sherri Chavora absent from that meeting; approve the minutes from the February 28, 2011 meeting; and approve the minutes from the March 8, 2011 meeting was made by Commissioner Hebekeuser and supported by Commissioner Brown.

Ayes: all, motion carried

Public / Board Comments:

City Council Member Gary Martenis is concerned about the Parks and Recreation Commission. It was set up to be an advisory board, not to be a fundraising group. There was a problem with money with the old Parks and Recreation Commission which may have caused their demise. Another group could take on the fundraising issues.

City Council Member Cindy Popovitch said that the Parks and Recreation Commission is taking on a huge burden with the fundraising activities. There are people in the community who could take that on.

Commissioner Hebekeuser stated that he wasn't planning on the fundraising activities. Commissioner Terri Brown didn't anticipate fundraising either. She understood that it was an advisory board. She can't put as much time in as may be required. Where are the funds to come from?

Council Member Martenis stated there weren't any projects at the time this commission was started. They were hoping it would come from general funds, but now that's not available.

Chairperson Marsha Ladd said that we've been in contact with the Kiwanis; we've made four grant applications; and have contacted the schools.

Council Member Popovitch recommends bringing in more people.

Commissioner Chavora recommends sending out pictures to solicit funds and show groups the playscape plans to build momentum.

Commissioner Hebekeuser asked Adam Zettel how other parks and recreations groups worked. Mr. Zettel stated they worked as subcommittees of the council to make recommendations to the council who then set policies.

Commissioner Chavora said fundraising is in our bylaws. She wants to be part of the decision-making process.

Commissioner Brown proposes tabling this discussion about the fundraising subcommittee until the next meeting, and move on to other topics.

Mr. Zettel stated it would be similar to the Dog Park group. They brought their efforts before this group. They must still be connected to city finances, however.

Commissioner Brown suggested a callout on the website for the next meeting for volunteers.

Communications:

1. Staff memorandum
2. January 24, 2001, February 28, 2011 & March 8, 2011 minutes
3. Letter from Dave Coulter
4. City council synopsis from March 21, 2011

Business:

1. Playscape designs with Dave Tooley, Sales Associate from Miracle of Michigan & Indiana for playground equipment
2. Bentley Park work and grants
3. Fundraising

Chairperson Ladd liked Phase I and II of the playscape design for Bentley Park almost exactly as they were submitted. With Phase III, she wants to look at other things. She does like the Rock Wall. In Phase I, she would like to change the tube slide to a curly.

Mr. Dave Tooley showed a diagram and presented an explanation of the decks on the tower and the slides. He will e-mail future diagrams to Mr. Zettel and will make poster size drawings for the commission members. He will get the final pricing when the final revisions are completed. That will include the equipment, supplies, two or three people from his company for the build, and the ground cover.

Chairperson Ladd said that she looked to the company to assist in the locating of the playscape in the park because of the drainage issues.

Commissioner Chavora suggested moving the basketball court and bringing the playscape closer to M-52 to visually bring people into the park. The gazebo could be made into more of a comfort center for parents to use / sit while the kids are in the playscape. It would be a great location to watch from in the middle of the park.

Chairperson Ladd said that Dave's memo mentioned \$10,000. Mr. Zettel stated to move the basketball court would add \$3,000 - \$4,000. He also stated the Kiwanis need a definite decision regarding grants.

The colors for the playscape were decided to be earth tones - brown, beige and hunter green with green platforms. The tall slide would be beige. Mr. Tooley will present the complete Phase I by Friday, April 1 for the commission's approval.

Mr. Zettel stated that staff is budgeting to get some maintenance items done in Bentley Park. There is grant news coming soon, he also stated. Commissioner Chavora will be receiving notice on the grants which were submitted.

Commissioner Chavora informed commissioners of the support she's received from area restaurants for the pasta dinner fundraiser. Some food items remain needed and is confident support will be obtained. She also submitted a formal letter of request for student help at the event. She discussed the need to get a press release out to media and that tickets are available.

Commissioner Brown made a suggestion to create a press release using the professional PDF rendering from Dave Tooley to all area media.

Commissioner Chavora discussed other fundraising events to support the playscape project.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Chavora and was supported by Commissioner Brown. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Ayes: all, motion carried

Ms. Marty Stinson
Recording Secretary
and Commissioner Terri Brown