

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission
Council Chambers, City Hall
October 24, 2011 – 6 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairperson Ladd.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Marty Stinson.

Members Present: Commissioners Sherri Chavora, Michael Espich, Jeff Selbig, Vice-Chairperson Jerry Hebekeuser and Chairperson Marsha Ladd.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Adam Zettel, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development; Councilmember Gary Martenis.

Approve Agenda for October 24, 2011:

A motion to approve the agenda as presented by Commissioner Espich and supported by Commissioner Hebekeuser.

Ayes: all, motion carried

Approve Minutes from September 26, 2011 meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2011 meeting was made by Commissioner Chavora and supported by Commissioner Espich.

Ayes: all, motion carried

Public Comments: Councilmember Gary Martenis wanted to express his thanks to former City Manager Joe Fivas and former Community Development Director Brent Morgan for reviving the Parks and Recreation Commission. Then he thanked Adam Zettel, current Community Development Director and Assistant City Manager for keeping the commission running. He also thanked Commissioner Hebekeuser and Chairman Ladd who were original members. He thanked Commissioner Chavora who has done so much for the Parks and Recreation Commission. The commission is in worthy hands and he knows that at the end of his council term that the commission will continue well.

Commissioner Chavora thanked Councilmember Martenis for being a committed audience member at the Parks and Recreation meetings.

Mayor Ben Frederick thanked Councilman Martenis for his work with the Parks and Recreation Commission. The commission has validated the work that he and Gary brainstormed about four years ago at the same table that the Parks and Recreation Commission are sitting at right now.

Commissioner Hebekeuser praised Mr. Zettel and the city staff for working so well with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Communications:

1. Staff memorandum
2. September 26, 2011 minutes
3. Fundraising report

Business:

1. Fund Raising Updates

Mr. Zettel stated that things are getting sold on the Bentley Park wish list. Funds now total \$37,189.26 including \$15,000 from the city.

Commissioner Chavora noted that Home Depot has several applications on-line that they want the Commission to apply for. Commissioner Hebekeuser received a \$10 donation for the Kiwanis fund while he was at Roma's Restaurant. He turned that over to Ms. Chavora. Ms. Chavora also noted that she received a \$10 donation from someone at the Scarecrows in the Park event.

Chairperson Ladd stated that the Shiawassee Community Foundation doesn't take applications until December.

Commissioner Chavora is now working on the Glo Parade. Commissioner Selbig noted the Bark Park had 21 entries at a recent event.

2. Recreation Passport Grant Updates

Mr. Zettel reported that the first round application received 150 points out of a possible 200 points. He noted that site access and sustainability received poor scores. He re-worded the grant to show ADA accessibility. This park functions as a regional park in nature, even though it's smaller than most regional parks. \$600,000 is available to be distributed with up to \$30,000 going to each park. Forty communities were asked to resubmit their plan, so Mr. Zettel thinks Owosso may have a 50/50 chance. He is hopeful that by December the city will hear of something, but it may be as late as January or February. Mr. Zettel is hopeful that the city will get some award.

Commissioner Chavora asked how much would go to the gazebo. Mr. Zettel said maybe \$2,000 along with \$3,000 already pledged from elsewhere. Ms. Chavora suggested a better use for the money as the music from the gazebo can only be heard about 20 feet from the gazebo. She also suggested that the chimney from the pavilion at Bentley Park be removed. It blocks the view and the music when trying to use the pavilion. She also noted the inconvenience of having all the tables chained together which prevents using the pavilion in a more versatile manner.

Chairperson Ladd added that the gazebo and pavilion are too far apart to use the gazebo as a band stand. You can't hear to the pavilion what is played in the gazebo.

Mr. Zettel stated it would be a massive undertaking to remove the chimney from the pavilion.

Commissioner Chavora also noted that Rugged Liner Co. at 200 Universal Drive wanted people to park in the lot rather than along the driveway on the grass. Next year they will need to make some appropriate signs.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chavora asked for an update about ice skating rinks. Mr. Zettel has been checking with others. He asked if we needed a liner. He is getting much positive reaction about installing a rink. Most suggest either Bentley Park or the Adams Park (on Chestnut St.). No one could remember having to use a liner previously. Mr. Zettel stated if we don't have to use a liner, that was good news. It would be easier to get the water and volunteers.

Ms. Chavora then asked about the disc golf. Commissioner Selbig noted that Jeff Peltier was drawing up some plans. Councilmember Martenis said City Engineer Ron Baker need to call Rick Morris.

The BMX bike path is only about half finished and needs more dirt and equipment. They need a Bobcat to finish the work. Councilmember Martenis will follow-up on that situation.

Commissioner Chavora asked about the sledding hill. She said that several parents have shown concern about the hill and wanting to monitor it because it's dangerous. The hill is fast and needs to be more useable. It should be monitored for lack of use. It was commented that McCurdy Park sled hill was too slow for some of the older kids who wanted a faster hill / ride.

Councilmember Martenis wants to meet Commissioner Chavora at Bentley Park and document the concerns there, and then go over to the sledding hill to write down what needs attention there.

Commissioner Chavora noted that the case is open on a light pole at the tennis court at Bentley Park. Mr. Zettel will report that to the DPW.

Commissioner Selbig talked about the sledding hill at the Holman Pool site. He suggested it could have a detour on part of it for a little kid's hill.

Mr. Zettel said they will monitor it this winter and see what can be done. It's a small area at the top; it was made that way to prevent too many going down at the same time and avoiding a major collision.

Mr. Zettel noted that at the November meeting, the commission will have officer elections and establish the 2012 work plan (capital improvements). This may be the year of the community build (the Playscape).

He also noted that the potable water supply at Collamer Park will have to be from a water main. The ground water supply is nasty tasting.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Hebekeuser and was supported by Commissioner Espich. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Ayes: all, motion carried.

Adam Zettel, Secretary