



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Cheney, Moore, O'Rourke, Palmer

ABSENT: DuBois, Hecht, Loch

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Ackley, Recording Secretary Gross, Police Lt. Kolke, Mayor Pro Tem Owsinek, and City Manager Whitt

P&R 02-01-19 MOTION TO EXCUSE DUBOIS, HECHT AND LOCH FROM TONIGHTS MEETING

Motion by Palmer, seconded Cheney, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To excuse Dubois, Hecht and loch from tonight's meeting.

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

P&R 02-02-19 APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 14, 2019 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Cheney, seconded O'Rourke, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the January 14, 2019 Parks and Recreation meeting minutes.

COMMUNICATION: None

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Whitt introduced himself as the City Manager of Walled Lake. Mr. Whitt also introduced Mayor Ackley, Mayor Pro Tem John Owsinek, and Police Lieutenant Kolke. Mr. Whitt said the recording secretary is Deputy City Clerk Miranda Gross. Mr. Whitt said Mr. Dan Ladd is from Public Works and is the one who completes the work for the commission. Mr. Whitt introduced Ms. Alexandra Novak, consultant planner with McKenna Associates and she was assigned after Mr. Deem's departure. Mr. Whitt said Ms. Novak will discuss grants the ask what the city intends to submit for.

1. **Update on Resubmittal of LWCF Development Grant for Mercer Beach**
2. **Update on Resubmittal of Recreation Passport Development Grant for Sims Park**

Consultant Planner Novak suggested the commission review the McKenna review letter on page 99 of the packet. Ms. Novak said last year around this time Mr. Deem helped the commission submit two grants to the MDNR. Novak explained one was for Mercer Beach, which was a Land and Water Conservation fund grant, focused on preserving natural features and general upgrades to natural feature related parks. The other grant was a Recreation Passport grant for Sims Park for general and access upgrades. Ms. Novak said neither of them were awarded but she did get the scores back and is looking at them now to see what can be improved on. Consultant Novak said she already has some ideas on how to improve the scores and the city is able to apply again this year with the same application, however a few changes will need to be made. She mentioned the restroom enclosure at Mercer Beach has already been constructed, that will be removed from grant. Consultant Novak said the city can replace with an item that will generate more points, possibly along the lines of environmental materials such as led lighting or ADA accessibility. Consultant Novak said another item to address is the requirement of public support, this could be a letter of support from someone in the public who acknowledges and generally supports the idea of improving one or both of these parks. Consultant Novak said they are separate applications so they would each need a separate letter of support. She said it doesn't have to be within Walled Lake it could be somewhere in the county or various groups of people that come to these parks or know of them. She said getting at least one letter of support to submit with each application would generate more points and will show that the city is really trying.

Commissioner O'Rourke asked if he could get a letter of support from the Lakes Area Homeowners Association?

Consultant Novak said yes, the groups the MDNR listed are the general public, local businesses, homeowners' associations, or legislators. She explained these were a few ideas, the city can go above and beyond that.

Mr. Whitt said that is where the Parks & Recreation is instrumental, they need to get the word out and get support.

Chairman Moore mentioned the city has a lot of condo associations around.

Mr. Whitt said Ms. Novak touched on taking the restroom facility not qualifying because it is already constructed. He said it was getting so bad down there the city needed to do something, what the city was hoping is that they would get reimbursed. Unfortunately, the MDNR would not reimburse and the city lost points on the application. Mr. Whitt said when you need to get something done, you don't want to be in the business of waiting on a grant to do what you need to do.

Chairman Moore mentioned one time the commission discussed getting some kind of a mat material to put across the beach and into the lake that wheelchairs could actually ride down into the lake on.

Mr. Ladd mentioned they had one for several years, the problem was it is plastic, and the sun would cause it to get dangerously hot. He also said it was in the way while raking the beach with the tractor.

Mr. Ladd explained if you drive over it, it breaks and if you drive around it, the tractor is in the water which the DEQ frowns upon. Mr. Ladd said it would only work if it was a concrete ramp of some type.

Consultant Novak asked if that would be in the budget?

Chairman Moore said that is something that would have to be look into.

Consultant Novak said these are the projects she will have to look into.

Chairman Moore said he would like a ramp to be built going into the lake for wheelchair access, otherwise trying to get through the sand is awful hard for them.

Mr. Ladd said he talked to the engineers about that and the problem is the slope of the beach itself is greater than ADA allows.

Consultant Novak said that is the bulk of what needs to get done. She said there needs to be a public hearing to review the applications before resubmitting them. She said she believes the required public hearings will be in conjunction with the planning commission meeting in March or it could be a special meeting, depending on the timeline. Consultant Novak said from there it will go to City Council for recommendation of approval. She said the application deadline is April 1st and we are on track, with about a month to really get everything together before planning commission meets in March. Consultant Novak said she is going to work on the projects Mr. Ladd to make sure the application is up to the standards that we think will award us the grant. She said she will certainly distribute those materials when they are ready to go.

Mr. Whitt said the city is right on track and the reason administration included the information in the packets is to show what actually got done and what didn't get done. He said included in the packet are the scores received. Mr. Whitt said by looking at the low scores, it lets you know what the city needs to improve on. Mr. Whitt said the application and the response back from the state are very useful to this commission to begin getting the bigger picture on how it works. Mr. Whitt said typically if you already got a grant from them, they tend to give them to the people that haven't gotten them yet. Mr. Whitt said the city has been fortunate to get grants in the past but just not a lot of recreational grants. Mr. Whitt said it is not for lack of trying. There are many reasons for not being awarded grants. The packets should help the commissioners better understand the grant process and the scoring of the applicants. Mr. Whitt said its not that complicated, it is just a lot of reading, once you read it you will get it. The idea in terms of what the city is applying for has to come from the community.

3. Spring Clean Up – Overview

Mr. Ladd said the DPW getting started with spring cleanup. Mr. Ladd said they are going to do some trimming in the parks and make sure the broken, dead, and cracked limbs from the winter storms are addressed. He said he will make sure that Sims Park is cleaned up for the Easter Egg Hunt. Mr. Ladd said he is glad it is late in April this year so it will give them plenty of time to get things prepared. Mr. Ladd said he has been working with staff to make sure the city has enough eggs this year and make sure they get them up to the villa to stuff with candy. He said the bunny suite ready to be cleaned as well. Mr. Ladd said he has been working on the grants with Ms. Novak. Mr. Ladd said he has been busy plowing & salting and making the parks assessable for the residents. He said he went ahead and did the contract for pond maintenance at Sims Park. Mr. Ladd asked the commission if they wanted to do the mosquito control again this year.

Commissioner O'Rourke stated you said it worked well last year and it kept it down for the concerts, correct?

Mr. Ladd said yes, everyone down there that stayed late said it made a difference and the cost will stay the same. Mr. Ladd mentioned he did some research on the wild flower field which is the baseball field, he said it is going to be very labor intensive, but they will start out small. Mr. Ladd explained the process to the commission. Mr. Ladd said he was asked by the commission to remove the exercise equipment from Sims Park. Mr. Ladd said as soon as the weather clears up here in the spring, he will have it removed.

Chairman Moore said he has 4 out of the 7 bands lined up already. He said he would get the other 3 spots filled by the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Update on Michigan Air Line Trail (Linear Park)

A. Master Plan

B. Interlocal Agreement

City Manager Whitt introduced Walled Lake trail representative Mr. Owsinek. Mr. Whitt said the reason the trail is on the agenda tonight is because it is identified as a linear park. Mr. Whitt said after discussion for all these years he has been here it is now moving over to the Parks and Recreation commission and should be viewed as a linear park. He said it's debatable why that wasn't over here being discussed. Mr. Whitt said now that the City of Walled Lake is at war with people and how the trail is constructed and what should be done, the Parks and Recreation commission should be involved. Mr. Whitt said the city in his view is left holding the bag on lot of the costs that are unfair. Mr. Whitt said the City of Walled Lake fought the battle and have made some folks angry. Mr. Whitt said the trail council believes because Walled Lake is one third of the membership, the City should pay one third of the cost. Mr. Whitt said the railway council is working on writing up a new interlocal agreement to make sure the City is not paying more than their fair share. Mr. Whitt said if the trail council doesn't create a better agreement, the City is in jeopardy of pulling out of the trail council. Mr. Whitt said City will always have a

trail, the question is, is it going to be with or without Commerce and Wixom. Mr. Whitt said the Parks & Recreation commission should have been involved from the beginning. Mr. Whitt asked everyone to familiarize themselves with the Michigan Airline Trail Master Plan. Mr. Whitt explained the Master Plan discusses the depot. Mr. Whitt said the City still does not have proof that the trail council is going to do anything to the depot. Mr. Whitt asked Mr. Owsinek if the city has any evidence, the trail council is going to fix the depot?

Mr. Owsinek said none.

Mr. Whitt explained what that means to the City of Walled Lake is, if the City is giving away money to do other stuff for the trail it could be going towards recreation stuff. Mr. Whitt said the Commission should know their Master Plan, know that the trail is a linear park and know that the Commission should have some say. Mr. Whitt said the City Council recognizes that now. Mr. Whitt said prior administration had let the trail discussions take their course and they drifted leaving the other two trailway communities taking control. Mr. Whitt said if you read the agreement you will see that if any of the three communities walk away, that community is in charge of the maintenance of the trail in their community. Mr. Whitt said that means the City of Walled Lake is in charge of rehabilitating the depot. Mr. Whitt also mentioned there has been no independent audit done in the last 9 years for the trail council. Mr. Whitt said even though it is required the trail council has not had one done. Mr. Whitt said if the city government did that, then the state would send auditors in and take over. Mr. Whitt said one of the responses he received was, "it's expensive to do an audit". Mr. Whitt said it's expensive to not do an audit. Mr. Whitt said the city needs to marry the trail with our recreation facilities.

Chairman Moore said that if the trailway council wants the money, the city should require an audit before handing over the money. Mr. Moore said the trail council should have an audit before the city pays another thing.

Mr. Whitt stated nobody is against the trail, people are against the way they are doing it. Mr. Whitt explained everybody is pro trail and he did not know of anyone that is against the trail. Mr. Whitt said the issue is how the trail council administers it and what money they are spending. Mr. Whitt said the trail council needs an audit because it is the right thing to do. Mr. Whitt said its important to know who has been writing the checks, who has been receiving them and who is getting paid.

P&R 02-03-19 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Miranda Gross
Recording Secretary



Tim Moore
Chairman