



**CITY OF WALLED LAKE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018**

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

ROLL CALL: Cheney, DuBois, Hecht, Loch, Moore

ABSENT: Palmer, Skronek

OTHERS PRESENT: Recording Secretary Stuart, Financial Advisor Colleen Coogan, DPW Laborer Dan Ladd, and Planning Consultant Mike Deem

REQUESTS FOR AGENDA CHANGES: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

P&R 03-01-18 APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2018, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Hecht, seconded Cheney, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To approve the February 12, 2018, Parks and Recreation meeting minutes.

COMMUNICATION: None

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Jeffrey Zug, 420 Wellsboro – asked about the Parks and Recreation Master Plan on page 4. He asked if there were six or seven parks. Finance Director Coogan said the trail was added so there are now seven.

Mr. Zug asked if the Mercer Beach size was .8 acres and what does that include? Chairman Moore said it is the beach area not the water. Mr. Ladd added the parking area is included also.

Mr. Zug said the ITC vegetation easement clear cuts everything. He is hoping that not all of the vegetation is cut put. The people who walk dogs along the trail as long as homeowners in the area cannot run outside and tell his dogs to be quiet every few minutes. Mr. Zug asked if ITC could be contacted to replace some vegetation to try to keep as much of the vegetation as possible or not cut everything down. Mr. Zug said the trail is a great idea and he appreciates it however, for the long term he feels that the vegetation should be kept there.

Mr. Gabriel Costanzo, City Councilmember, welcomed Ms. DuBois to the commission. Mr. Costanzo thanked the commission for their work on the Master Plan.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Grant Update**
Parks & Recreation Master Plan

There was a brief introduction of city staff that was present for Ms. DuBois, who is new to commission.

Mr. Deem, McKenna Associates – said the Master Plan has been updated and this allows for grant applications to be placed. Mr. Deem said the two top grants for the best chance of success include Recreation Passport to renovate and improve existing parks and Land and Water Conservation Fund to improve facilities – trailways, picnic areas, beaches, playgrounds, campgrounds, ballfields, etc.

Mr. Deem said the deadline is April 1, 2018. City Council will have to pass a resolution approving the projects -- there is one council meeting prior to April 1, 2018.

Ms. Coogan stated that one of the top items the Commission was hoping to have worked on was the pond at Sims Park. There is not enough time to get all of the detailed information needed to work on this project in the current year; we will be moving on with other items on the Commissions list. We will work on the pond next year.

Mr. Deem said that what they are proposing is resurfacing the parking lot, adding universal connectors to the existing activities of the park. One of the goals of the passport grant is universal access. Mr. Deem said the passport grant is ADA compliance for universal access.

Mr. Deem explained the trailway is new and should be universally accessible, it needs to be ADA compliant. Restroom enclosures are on the northwest side of the parking lot.

Looking forward, Mr. Deem said the pond is a natural viewing area and once there is a full plan for this, a grant may be applied for however, with the immediate deadline of April 1st, plan preparation cannot take place within this short timeframe. We just don't have the full details to turn in an application that would look successful.

Coogan said the dollar figures are estimates, the matching is slightly over the \$100,000 match. Ms. Coogan explained in August of 2017, City Council and the DDA analyzed the storm water for over two years, this is a critical area of concern. The grant is to improve the beach using green technologies in the storm water system restructuring. This grant has received the most applications for the grant in over a decade. It is not likely the City will receive this grant as there so many applicants and we are not in a critical area for the state DEQ.

Ms. Coogan said the bio swale is proposed to help with the beach, paying particular attention to Mercer Beach and the roads directly around it. We are applying for a grant to help with this project to help with the Mercer Beach area.

Mr. Deem said the bio swale prevents items from going into lake and if it does go into lake it is naturally filtered. Mr. Deem said the grant includes new fencing along the width of the beach, restroom enclosure, new lights to match the campus, benches, and trash cans to continue unified theme throughout the City. Also, includes fall-safe material for the play equipment area.

Commissioner Hecht said there was already money earmarked in the budget for restroom enclosure. Mr. Ladd said yes for the restroom. Ms. Coogan said not for the swale, funds of \$20,000 were allocated for restroom enclosure.

Commissioner Hecht said when they went out for site surveys, the bio swale was not on the list. Mr. Hecht said new picnic tables, benches, playground equipment, and pavilion were decided upon. Mr. Hecht said the bio swale is new. Commissioner Hecht felt maybe some of the other parks should be focused on as was discussed when working on the Master Plan.

Coogan said more than one Passport Grant can be applied for. Mr. Deem said if the focus is for replacement of playground equipment, another grant may be applied for.

Chairman Moore stated that when the Commission walked the parks last summer, the information of the severe storm drain problem was not known to the Commission. We need to take care of the Mercer Beach as this is a vitale area of our City and its parks.

Coogan said there will be new storm drains placed in addition to the bio swale. The bio swale will be part of the beach enhancement.

Commissioner Loch said the Recreation Passport grant is different than the Land and Water grant and they cannot be intertwined.

Mr. Deem said two grants may be applied for but only one will be awarded.

Commissioner Loch asked if any of the play equipment in the parks was ADA complaint. We are hoping to get a wheelchair swing for Sims Park with the grant. Mr. Ladd explained the Mercer Beach equipment is ADA complaint.

Commissioner Hecht asked if money is granted, how flexible is use of the funds. Mr. Deem explained there would have to be extenuating circumstances to not abide by the project proposed in the grant.

Ms. Coogan requested to forward the recommendation to Council for approval of the grant application.

Commissioner Hecht asked if the Commission was good moving forward with Mercer Beach instead of playground equipment. Mr. Deem stated the lake is the biggest asset to the City. Mr. Ladd said after a severe storm, it takes the DPW over four hours to rebuild the beach back up

from the sand transferring into the lake. They have to drive the backhoe into the water to bring back the sand onto the beach.

Ms. Coogan said the crosswalks are included in the grant proposal to help improve the walkability from the beach across Walled Lake Drive. Screening by the porta john structure will help with possible plantings. Code Enforcement has been all over neighboring business to keep trash contained.

**P&R 03-02-18 MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE
THE TWO GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Motion by Cheney, seconded Hecht, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To Recommend City Council to Approve the two Grant Applications.

2. Easter Egg Hunt – Preparation List – Finalize

Chairman Moore said March 20th is the tentative delivery date for stuffing of candy. The preparation schedule was reviewed. Volunteers to arrive between 9 and 9:30 am and egg hunts begins at noon.

Commissioner Cheney has purchased the candy for the Easter eggs and is putting together the prize-winning baskets.

3. Memorial Day Parade – Preparation List

Application was reviewed with changes to application stating that “all participants must be dressed appropriately & comply with parade rules or they will be asked to leave the parade”.

**P&R 03-03-18 MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
APPLICATION WITH THE SUGGESTED CHANGES**

Motion by Loch, seconded Cheney, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To Approve the Memorial Day Parade Application with the Suggested Changes

Chairman Moore said he contacted a WWII Veteran who has agreed to be Grand Marshal. Mr. Moore said a letter was sent to the gentleman confirming. Mr. Moore said he has contacted the VFW and they will provide a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in Walled Lake. Chairman Moore stated and Casey and Christy Ambrose will again do the announcing in front of their business on East West Maple.

Parade volunteers need to arrive 9:30 – 10:00 am.

Chairman Moore asked if Walled Lake Drive will be under construction at parade time. Ms. Coogan said no.

Motion by Hecht, seconded DuBois, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: To Approve the Contract for 2018 from Blue Water Aquatics Not to Exceed \$2000 for treatment of the pond at Sims Park

DISCUSSION

Ms. Coogan reviewed the budget. Ms. Coogan reported \$30,000 has been paid to the railway project.

Commissioner Hecht asked about the Banks Dolbeer restoration status. Commissioner Loch said the City has been requesting financials for a long time and still has not received them. Ms. Coogan said the DDA has requested them also.

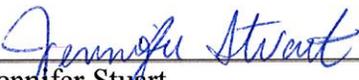
Commissioner Loch said there was movement by the City Manager to fix the home. Mrs. Loch said the City Manager met with a representative and still no financials have been provided. City Manager would like to see the financials on the project.

Commissioner Hecht said even if it is restored to the original design, the structure is a liability and no use to the City.

Chairman Moore thanked Jennifer Stuart for her help tonight as well as Janell Joyce, the DPW and City Staff.

P&R 03-07-18 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.



Jennifer Stuart
City Clerk



Tim Moore
Chairman