

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES FOR THE  
MEETING OF

May 12, 2010

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Present: Jim Austin, Rhonda Buck, Bob Cook, Megan Harley, Eric Hartfield, Jerry Hopkins, Dan Lavengood, Rod Van Oeveren

Absent: Dave Skinner, Doug Wustman

Staff Present: Nancy Parent, Rebecca Rynbrandt

City Council Liaison: Rich Pastoor

**Call to order of the Parks and Recreation Commission** – Chairman Lavengood called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda** – Motion was made by Rod Van Oeveren, seconded by Rhonda Buck to approve the agenda. Carried.

**Approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes of the March 10, 2010 Meeting** - Motion was made by Eric Hartfield, seconded by Rhonda Buck to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2010 meeting. Carried.

**Public Comment on Agenda Item (limit to 3 minutes)** – None.

**Conflict of Interest Policy** – This policy was adopted by the City Council for all Boards and Commissions to follow. The policy is defined as any issue in which a member or his/her family has a potential financial interest or benefit. If there is a question of a conflict of interest, you need to declare your interest to the Commission and the group gets to vote on whether or not you may abstain. The policy outlines the conflict of interest details.

**Michigan Open Carry (Firearms) Law – Impact on Park Facilities** – Becky explained the law and reviewed the handouts. Park properties are not exempted as are sports arenas and school sites. The handouts will provide you with background information on this law. We will be working with the City's Police Department and Attorney in updating our rules and ordinances and will be removing any existing restrictions that are in opposition of this law. Becky asked if there were any thoughts or concerns on this law. Rod Van Oeveren stated that we have to follow the law of the land, but he did not agree that this law should apply to parks and playgrounds. Eric Hartfield agreed with Rod. Becky wanted to educate the Commission so they can assist in educating the public on the impact of the law.

**State of Michigan State Park Passport Program – 10% Local Government Competitive Grant Funding** – This program will be going into effective in October. The fee (Becky thinks is \$10) will be tied to your vehicle registration and is voluntary. Ten percent of the funds raised will go into a pot for grants for local government for development. Becky encourages everyone to participate in this program.

**Annual Report (FY 2009)** – Becky is proud of staff and all they have accomplished this past year. We are growing in special event support such as Hope Network and Relay for Life events. There is a link to the annual report on the city's website. Rod Van Oeveren said the report was put together well and was easy to read and understand. Jim Austin added it was very unique and was interesting reading.

### **Capital Projects Update**

**Oriole Park Redevelopment** – We are seeing progress. We could possibly have substantial completion in July and might be able to open the park and have the splashpad open for a month. We will do more plantings in the fall. Comments have been heard from the public about wanting more splashpads in parks.

**Wyoming Senior Center Sign** – The bid has been awarded. We are waiting for final schematics on colors, etc. The sign does comply with the city sign ordinance.

**Housekeeping/Informational Items** – Chairman Lavengood informed that he had several people tie bar the public safety millage to Parks & Recreation saying it would pay for park maintenance. This millage only funds public safety – police and fire.

Becky went over some comments that were shared to the community by the Mayor. He is considering the consolidation of all millages for the November ballot. This is being currently discussed by the City Council. Consolidation does not free up money; there will still need to be cuts. The consolidation will have to go to a vote of the people. You may e-mail concerns to Becky, but this should be shared with your council representative. Question was raised if the Commission or Council should put out a survey regarding this to determine if there is a value in consolidating millages. This is a possibility. Becky reviewed the process of how the Parks and Recreation dedicated millage came about. Discussion was held. Many commissioners voiced concern about a consolidation of the Parks and Recreation millage. Chairman Lavengood asked that Becky and Rich Pastoor keep the Commission informed on this issue.

**Commissioner Concerns and Suggestions** – None.

**Public Comment in General (Limit to 3 minutes)** – None.

**Motion to Adjourn the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting** – Motion to adjourn was made by Rod Van Oeveren, seconded by Megan Harley. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Recorded by \_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Parent  
Recording Secretary