

City of Wyoming Parks & Recreation Commission

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
January 13, 2016
Wyoming City Hall, West Conference Room**

Present: Robert Cook, Ken Hornecker, Oogie LaMar, Ed McGregor, Dave Skinner, Doug Wustman, Douglas Broek, Megan Harley, Aaron Velthouse

Absent: Rich Pastoor (City Council Liaison)

Guest: Russ Henckel, Deputy Director of Public Works - Engineering

Staff Present: Rebecca Rynbrandt, Director of Community Services
Nicole Batcke, Secretary

- A. Call to order of the Parks and Recreation Commission** – Commission Chair, Doug Wustman called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- B. Approval of Agenda with an Amendment** – A motion was made by **Ed MacGregor** to approve the amended agenda and seconded by **Ken Hornecker**. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of the Parks and Recreation minutes from Dec. 9, 2015 Meeting** – **Ed McGregor** made motion to approve the minutes from the Dec. 9, 2015 meeting and was seconded by **Douglas Broek**. Motion carried.
- D. Public Comment on Agenda Item (limit to 3 minutes)** – None
- E. Annual Report 2014-2015**- Rynbrandt briefly went over the annual report, which each commissioner should have received in the mail. She also reminded them that if there were any previous reports they would like to access, they can do so on the City's website. The Annual Report was directly mailed to about 250 people the first week of January.

Doug Broek commented on how nicely put together the report was. Oogie LaMar wondered if there was a cost-saving with doing it every other year. Rynbrandt said that the city council prefers to have the reports done on a yearly basis so as to keep citizens informed on how the dedicated millage is being used. Doug Wustman said it was nice to be able to compare two years versus just the one. Ken Hornecker suggested that it would be nice to have the report compare two years at a time, so they can see where we are going and if there are any differences between the years. Rynbrandt said that she would consider having a more detailed comparison of more than 2 years, perhaps maybe 3 or 5 years for key benchmarks.

- F. Wyoming Bikeways Plan Update (Russ Henckel, Deputy Director of Public Works)** - Doug Wustman introduced Russ Henckel, from our Engineering Department. Henckel provided a power point presentation relating to a study of the Wyoming Bikeways, which was compiled by a consultant. Henckel also gave a brief background on how the plan worked and was developed. The consultant studied trends from throughout the country. The plan also prioritizes connectivity of

bikeways between cities. The trending use, Henckel said, is for bikeways to be used more for commuting, rather than for recreation.

The study also provided information on what roads, trails, and paths would be more beneficial to be placed on a "road diet". This involves new street markings for bike lanes and reductions of 4 auto lanes to 3 (with center turn lane). Road diets work within the same footprint of the current street rather than having to reconstruct the street and roadway. Henckel briefly went over the maps that were included within the bikeway booklet that was emailed to commissioners. Some of the streets that are being named in this plan were placed there because the thought process focused on what corridors would be effectively able to be used to allow people to ride their bikes from one place to another and then catch a bus to downtown Grand Rapids and other employment centers easily and safely. Henckel said that this plan is proposed all the way through 2020.

LaMar inquired about Burlingame Avenue, and voiced his concern with potential problems related to high traffic volumes, school buses, and children commuting on bikes to schools in the area. His concern stemmed from the traffic that comes from the schools and local businesses in that area. He indicated a preference that more trails be developed off-street. Rynbrandt mentioned that when Frog Hollow was put in place, there was already thought being put into place regarding the bikeway paths and that this resulted in the oversized side walk through Metro Health Village that also serves as a bike path. Henckel mentioned that it takes a lot of funds just to reconstruct roadways, some of the items by just an inch, and the intent is to modify roads only when they are due for major repairs. Skinner said that he had some concerns, especially with Clay Avenue being converted to on street bike lanes. He noted the large trucks and traffic that frequent that Avenue. He also mentioned Division Avenue because of the buses, Silver Line and other traffic and that placing a bike lane there, might be a hazard. Henckel spoke to the success Grand Rapids is having with expanding bike lanes throughout the city.

Rynbrandt noted that the avid cyclist population is growing and Grand Rapids has a very aggressive plan for bikeways. There is an increasing trend for people bicycling to and from work, or using their bikes as a connection between catching the bus to finish commuting to their location.

Wustman said what he sees is a plan that will be a waste of tax payer dollars and time because we are in Michigan and year-round use is hampered by winter. Wustman also pointed out that we are a motorized society not biking society. Russ said that some of the streets that meet the "criteria" for the plan may not happen, but they had to be included. He also mentioned that studies have concluded accidents decrease on a road that has a bike lane for both the pedestrians and motorists.

Rynbrandt reaffirmed for this group that this plan is required to be recommended by the Planning Commission to the City Council as part of the Land Use Plan. She wanted commissioners to see the connectivity between the parks and bike paths, which is why Henckel was invited to present the study. Hornecker questioned the whole process for commuting because the busing system can only accommodate about 2-3 bikes; however The Rapid would need to be on board as well. Rynbrandt said that Henckel serves on the Grand Valley Metro Council Transportation Planning Committee, along with Tim Cochran, who is on our Community Services

team, which takes into consideration all concerns and plans throughout the various plans and studies.

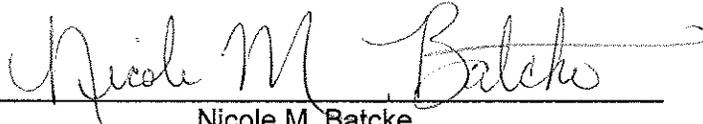
- G. Information Material (handouts)** – Informational reports on recreation programming participation, park reservations, Wyoming Senior Center participation, and TEAM 21 sites were included in the packets. This information shows the impact of our programs throughout the community. Rynbrandt briefly went over each of the pin maps via a power point presentation. She also made mention that you don't have to be a resident of Wyoming to participate in any of our programs. A non-resident may register for our any of our programs by paying a slightly higher fee. At the WSC (Wyoming Senior Center), they are trying very hard to educate people that you don't have to pay to attend the WSC. Rynbrandt also said that the youth scholarships are the least utilized within the panhandle. Rynbrandt believes it is due in part to the challenges of educating residents of Wyoming that reside in Grandville Public Schools District, that they are residents of Wyoming. Megan Harley suggested teaming up with Mt. Zion Church which in turn partners with Hand2Hand, which provides food basket items to the school district. Rynbrandt encourages the commissioners to educate the community that there are scholarships available for the residents of Wyoming.
- **FY 2015 School Usage Information** - Rynbrandt went over this information which pertains to the schools using the park facilities as well as Parks & Recreation utilizing the school facilities for programs. In looking at the information, the public schools utilize our facilities significantly more than we use theirs, although, she said there could be some growth in some of the school district areas.
 - **Participation Data Maps** - Rynbrandt said staff has already began to have some discussions about the age gap of program registrations within the 15-20 year old age group. Any suggestions for promoting programs or ideas for programs please let her know.
 - **Pinery Park Fitness Trail Improvements** – This project will be completed this spring. The new equipment is being funded by the CDBG funds. Rynbrandt said the total cost for the project is about \$26,000. The fitness trail will be expanded by 2 new stations.
- H. Ideal Park MNRTF Grant Application** – We are working to finish the grant application for the MNRTF by April 1. Our department is reaching out to the community in order to get an understanding of what wildlife inhabited the park and surrounding areas. We are acquiring any information, pictures, etc. that can be provided to us so it can be submitted with the grant application. Our goal is to have \$300,000 dollars from the grant to assist with the renovations.
- I. Library Millage Expansion Update** – Rynbrandt presented a brief slideshow which provides a quick history of the Library and Parks & Recreation budgets. She said the city owns the library building and we are responsible for maintenance of the building and the parking area. In essence, we are the landlord to the Kent District Library. This presentation was created specifically by the City Manager for council; in order request a question to be placed on a ballot for the May election allowing the Library millage to be used in part within the park system on capital improvements. Rynbrandt provided justification within the presentation for the

request of opening the millage to expanded use. Staff would prefer to have the question placed on the May ballot rather than the August ballot, because May's ballot is a lot cleaner, with less items for consideration by the community. Broek asked if it is in August or November wouldn't we be overwhelming the voters with millage votes? Rynbrandt said that is why we would prefer to have it listed on the May ballot, especially due to the fiscal year collecting and how that all falls together.

- J. **Pinery Park Little League Update** – Rynbrandt provided a quick update regarding where we are with Pinery Park Little League. Things are progressing and we are forging ahead. Our finance department has been meeting once a week with PPLL. PPLL has revived the status of their 501(c)3, but will still be associated with the GWCRA. We have developed a registration form and regardless of where the registrations are being taken, they will all be entered into our RecTrac system.
- K. **Commissioner Concerns and Suggestions**
- L. **Public Comment in General (Limit to 3 minutes) - None**
- M. **Motion to Adjourn the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting – Ed McGregor** made a motion to adjourn the meeting and **Megan Harley** seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission: February 10, 2016.

Recorded by



Nicole M. Batcke
Recording Secretary