

**Approved Minutes
Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, April 28, 2009
7:00 p.m., City Hall**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Meeting called to order by Chair R. Roberts at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **ATTENDANCE AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**
 - A. Commission Members: Alsager, Carlson, Daniels, Moreno, C. Roberts, R. Roberts, Sych
 - B. Parks and Recreation Staff: Bundy, Way, Weaver
 - C. Guests: None
 - D. Public Attendance: 6 CMU Students
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES & COMMISSION BUSINESS**
 - A. Changes/Approval of Agenda – Add Special Use Permit/River Access under Old and New Business Item D. A motion was made by Comm. Daniels, second by Comm. Sych to approve changes made to agenda.
MOTION CARRIED.
 - B. Approval of Minutes – Meeting held Tuesday, March 24, 2009 – A motion was made by Comm. Sych, second by Comm. Roberts to approve the minutes of Tuesday, March 24, 2009. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - There were no public comments.
- V. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**
 - A. Parks – Matt Weaver reported that staff is opening facilities, and all Parks and facilities will be open by May 1st. Girls youth softball begins Wed. 4/29 and little league started Saturday 4/25 adding field prep duties for staff. The Lions Club chicken BBQ is Sunday, May 3rd at Island Park West. Staff prepping cemetery for Memorial Day. Rich Duynslager will be returning this year as Park Police Officer as well as one other ranger from last year. Staff conducted interviews to hire two more rangers. Comm. C. Roberts asked if rangers are deputized. Rangers are not but do have radios to keep in contact with central dispatch. Comm. R. Roberts asked if staff is helping with repairs to vandalized Iraqi Freedom Memorial. Mr. Bundy stated that staff is working with responsible parties. Items being considered are added lighting and possible cameras for added security.

All interested persons may attend and participate. Persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate may call the Human Resources Office at 989-779-5313. Persons requiring speech or hearing assistance may contact the City through the Michigan Relay Center at 1-800-649-3777. A 48-hour advance notice is necessary for accommodation.

B. Recreation – Chris Bundy reported on the following programs:

- PEAK Golf outing will be at Riverwood Resort on May 15th.
- Afterschool PEAK enrollment holding steady at 370. PEAK kids attended a CMU baseball game on Friday, 4/24.
- Summer PEAK registration has begun.
- PEAK partnership with RPL206 has 2 sections volunteering at various PEAK sites. This successful program will continue next school year.
- The City is planning a census kickoff, and PEAK Director Nate Lockwood is a member of the census count team.
- The Great Egg Scramble was held at Finch Fieldhouse on 4/11 with over 1,000 children in attendance. Over 500# of food was collected for the Soup Kitchen.
- Spring Break Camp was held at Morey Courts with 23 participants.
- Start Smart Tee-ball begins May 19th with 4 sections.
- Held teen open gym at Morey Courts on 4/26. Staff working on getting more teens to attend activities.
- Earth Day Event held 4/25 at Island Park. League of Women Voters was one of the sponsors of this event.
- Staff working on revamping website to go along with online registration.
- Staff to help with Sesquicentennial event at Island Park on July 26th. Activities include an ice cream social and square dancing.
- Tee-ball games to start on May 2nd. There are a total of 18 teams this year. Staff had a difficult time recruiting parent volunteers.
- Spring soccer has 12 teams this year. This program is run in conjunction with Mt. Pleasant Soccer Club.
- Tennis Fun Day will be held at Mt. Pleasant High School tennis courts on Saturday, May 9th. Midland Tennis Center provides instructors for this event which includes free food and drinks.

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VI. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. Spray Park Status Update – The project went out to bid and 5 proposals were received. Bidders were asked to submit their best project totaling no more than \$195,000 for a turnkey operation, meeting specific guidelines as outlined in the RFP. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held for questions. After evaluating all RFP's submitted, staff is recommending bid from Miracle of Michigan. Questions/concerns from commissioner included:
- Is there fencing around the entire structure? - Yes, there is fencing around the entire structure with one entrance into structure.
 - Concerns of vandalism – Elements are made from stainless steel and are virtually indestructible.
 - Are there any trees that will need to be cut down? - There is one small tree that may have to be cut down.
 - Concerns about park staff maintenance, particularly in the fall. - Falling leaves may be a minor issue for staff.

A motion was made by Comm. Moreno, second by Comm. Sych to recommend bid as proposed by Miracle Michigan. **MOTION CARRIED.**

- B. GKB Riverwalk Trail – In a previous meeting it was discussed renaming the trail in honor of Greg Baderschneider. Staff will recommend a resolution at a later meeting to be sent to the City Comm. for adoption.
- C. Oak Street Bridge – Engineering firm has deemed bridge structurally unsafe for pedestrians. DPW has gated bridge and engineer is submitting a recommendation for both short-term and long-term solutions.
- D. Special Use Permit/River Access – Commission was given a draft copy of the permit application and rules/regulations. This special use permit was intended to:
- Insure that the commercial activity doesn't interfere with the enjoyment of the public's use of the parks
 - Protect the resources (both natural and manmade) of the park from damage
 - Limit to the extent possible the littering of the river with trash and debris that may result from the licensed activity

Comm. R. Roberts asked if the city attorney has looked at these documents, and wanted to know who would monitor this policy. Mr.

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Bundy will forward to attorney for review. Staff is also seeking the police department's input on the policy. This policy gives our park staff and rangers criteria to monitor rules. It is not meant to prohibit citizens and groups from using the parks but to function in an appropriate manner, protecting resources, safety and access.

Comm. Daniels asked if tubing companies know this policy is coming. Yes, Mr. Bundy met with these companies in the fall and will meet again May 11th.

A motion was made by Comm. C. Roberts, second by Comm. Daniels and upon review of city attorney to recommend the special use permit fees to the City Commission. **MOTION CARRIED.**

VII. **OTHER BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Cell Tower Update – There will be a public hearing at the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, May 7th regarding the proposed cell tower at Chipp-a-Waters Park. A copy of the memo written to the City Comm. with the recommendations from the Parks & Recreation Comm. was shared with Planning Comm. for their review. Chair R. Roberts agreed to attend this public hearing to represent the Parks & Recreation Comm.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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