

**Approved Minutes
Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, September 24, 2013
7:00 p.m., City Hall**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Chair R. Roberts.
- II. **ATTENDANCE AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**
 - A. Commission Members: Boyle, Roberts, Weaver, Winslow
 - B. Parks and Recreation Staff: Anthony, Bundy, Way
 - C. Guests: None
 - D. Public Attendance: None
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES & COMMISSION BUSINESS**
 - A. Changes/Approval of Agenda – No changes made and the agenda was approved as presented.
 - B. Approval of Minutes -- A motion was made by Comm. Winslow, second by Comm. Boyle to approve the minutes of Tuesday, July 23, 2013.
MOTION CARRIED.
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATION**
 - A. There were no public comments.
- V. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**
 - A. Parks – Director Bundy gave the following report:
 - Seasonal staff has been reduced as school resumes; fall hours for restrooms go into effect Oct. 1st. Park Rangers have reduced hours now until Nov. 1st.
 - Working with DPW to hire a tree consultant to come up with an overall plan for trees (plantings, placement, pruning)
 - 2014 proposed budget can now be viewed online.
 - 2% request for Parks includes weir reconstruction at Mill Pond (\$60,000 request).
 - B. Recreation – Director Anthony reported on the following programs and events:
 - Recreation has been busy with many events and partnerships, including Diggin’ Bones and Strut Your Mutt (with CRDL), craft tent at Art Battle, Worldwide Day of Play and the 40th Anniversary of the farmer’s market.

- Staff also participated in CMU Welcome back events MainStage and Get Acquainted Day.
- Analyzing years 2011-12-13, overall staff has seen an increase in youth sports participation and a decrease in adult athletics.
- Camp PEAK numbers for 2013 summer were 360, compared to 376 in 2012 and 351 in 2011. Scholarship requests increased from \$36,000 in 2012 to \$43,000 to date for 2013.
- 2% requests for Recreation include PEAK and request for adjustable basketball rims for youth program.

VI. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

A. Parks Tour Review

This tour was given in preparation for the master planning process which will be coming up in late 2014. Comments are still welcome. Discussed liability issues, including the pedestrian crossing at the railroad tracks @ High and Oak Streets. Suggestions include cutting the brush back further and painting lines on the pathway to warn of crossing.

B. Parks Capital Projects

- Yost Field – City Comm. approved bids for pavilion/restroom design, fencing and parking lot. Bid came in higher than expected. City Comm. allocated additional funds to complete the project.
- Mill Pond – Contractor completed a few items along trail from Broadway to dams including repair of deck on dam and repair broken concrete damaged during construction.
- Chipp-a-Waters Riverbank Protection – Substantial amount of riverbank lost in the spring of 2013 due to flooding. Rec'd \$60,000 tribal 2% funding plus \$60,000 Parks matching funds to replace canoe launch and protect riverbank along this area; may not have enough funds to repair as damage is substantial. May need plantings along the river to help with erosion as well as defined areas for river access.
- Nelson – Rotary Club raising funds to help replace bridge at Nelson Park. Staff also requesting \$10,000 from Access to Recreation Fund through the Community Foundation.

Isabella Bank considering a 2014 donation of funds for construction of gazebo at Nelson Park. Plans include a universally accessible walkway to fountain area.

- Horizon – Staff meeting with family of Carolyn Cousins as they are interested in constructing a shelter off the restroom in her honor.

C. Dog Park Status –

Mr. Bundy updated the Commission on the latest correspondence from Friends of the Dog Park. Their most recent recommendation included no involvement from staff or Rowe Engineering, and compromises items that make the maintenance of the park more costly and a challenge to manage, and falls short of universal accessibility.

After discussion, and by consensus, the Parks & Recreation Commission does not support the latest recommendation from Friends of the Dog Park and supports the original plan from Rowe (option 1).

A joint meeting has been set between the City Comm. and Union Township Board on Monday, Sept. 30th @ 7:00 pm to discuss these issues. All are welcome.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.