

## **COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**January 25, 2018**

The Municipal Council of the City of Alpena met in special session, upon the call of the Mayor, at the Apex on the above date and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Mayor.

Present: Mayor Waligora, Councilmembers Nielsen, Nowak, Johnson, and Hess.

Absent: None

### **PRESENTATION OF THE RV CONCEPT PROPOSAL FOR MICH-E-KE-WIS PARK**

Rich Sullenger, City Engineer, gave a presentation on the RV Concept Proposal for Mich-e-ke-wis Park.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The public comment period was open.

Edith Rosenthal Gerber, who lives at 164 Gilchrist Avenue, gave a definition of open space. She asked to not destroy the park. She is not in favor of the RV Park.

Jim Shaffer, who lives at 11850 Hubbard Lake Road, was concerned about losing the ability of accessing the lake. He suggested mimicking Ocqueoc Falls landscape. He is not in favor of the RV Park.

John Gilmet, who lives at 616 First Street, sat on Alpena's City Council from 1997-2006, and hopes the RV Park will be removed from the master plan. He believes credit should be used to repair roads and utilities. He is not in favor of the RV Park.

Beckie Durfee, who lives at 410 S. Addison Street, Apartment 1, asked council to reject the RV Park proposal. Her great-great-grandfather, Michael Paad, donated the land to Mich-e-ke-wis. She is not in favor of the RV Park.

Vernie Nethercut, who lives at 1139 Washington Avenue, asked Council to consider other options such as an all-seasons recreation area. She is not in favor of the RV Park.

Bonnie Altman, who lives at 657 Michigan Avenue, said her great-grandfather, Michael Paad, donated the land. She asked Council for a soft use of our resources that would not do harm. She is not in favor of the RV Park.

Charise McClendon, who lives at 521 Sable Street, started a petition to remove the RV Park from the master plan. She has 1,022 signatures on the petition. She is not in favor of the RV Park.

Edward Jahnke, who lives at 539 Thunder Bay Avenue, believes that people enjoy the park. He was concerned about flooding in the area and whether or not it is a good investment. He was not in favor of the RV Park.

Joseph Rybarczyk, who lives at 249 S. Second Avenue, presented a slideshow with his own proposal of how the land could be used. His proposal included a boardwalk, pier, planters, benches, solar panels to charge devices that could also provide shade, fire pits, public art, playgrounds, outdoor fitness, community space, tiered seating, bicycle rental, street food, a community garden, and raised beds for handicap. He is not in favor of the RV Park.

Shawn Sexton, who lives at 400 Long Rapids Road, said he supports Joseph Rybarczyk. He was not in favor of the RV Park.

Mary Beth Stutzman, who lives at 144 S. First Avenue, said that this is not a financially viable option. She is not in favor of the RV Park.

Rudy Bauer, who lives at 1326 Fox Farm Drive, thanked Council for researching the park. He supports the idea that Alpena needs an RV Park.

June Perry, who lives at 725 S. Third Avenue, brought a letter from former Mayor Carol Shafto. She is not in favor of the RV Park.

Chuck Knotts who lives at 634 and 702 Mack Avenue, said his great-grandfather owned the land. He believes the RV Park would be located too close to residences. He is not in favor of the RV Park.

Angie Skiba, who lives at 635 River Street, asked that the RV Park be permanently removed from the master plan. She suggested putting money into the fairgrounds instead of Mich-e-ke-wis. She promotes further growth in Alpena, but is not in favor of the RV Park.

Melissa Mendel, who lives at 150 S. Sheridan Street, mentioned that there is a plan for an RV Park at Rockport. She is not in favor of the RV Park.

Earl Martin, who lives at 17354 Beaver Lake Park Road, stated that he is the manager of Beaver Lake Park, and that he struggles to fill the park. He believes Mich-e-ke-wis should be developed so that it can be used every day of the year. He is not in favor of the RV Park.

Audrey Garant, who lives at 463 S. State Avenue, likes the idea of improvements or suggestions, but is not in favor of the RV Park at Mich-e-ke-wis.

The public comment period was closed.

City Manager Greg Sundin explained that a consultant was hired to work with the City, and a plan that included the RV Park was created. The plan was adopted with the RV Park included in it. When City Manager Sundin gave the "State of the City Address" in 2016, work had just begun on the splash park. After work on the splash park was complete, the plan was to move forward with improving Mich-e-ke-wis. He mentioned that staff is looking for direction from Council.

Councilmember Mike Nowak created a personal poll on Facebook in which 98% of people opposed the RV Park. He believes this needs to be removed from the master plan. He is not in favor of the RV Park.

Councilmember Cindy Johnson believes people want Mich-e-ke-wis to remain an open space. She is not in favor of the RV Park.

Councilmember Amber Hess created a poll on Facebook, which had an overwhelming response against the RV Park. She is not in favor of the RV Park.

Councilmember Susan Nielsen agreed that the lakefront should always be preserved. She is not in favor of the RV Park.

On motion of Councilmember Nowak, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, the Municipal Council adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

MATTHEW J. WALIGORA  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Anna Soik  
City Clerk