



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 13, 2021

A meeting of the City of Petoskey Parks and Recreation Commission was held at Petoskey City Hall Council Chambers, on Monday, September 13, 2021. Roll was called at 7:00 P.M. and the following were:

Present: Jerry Bush
Paul Schemanski
Ken Turk
Sharon Walker
Jon Terry
Cody Wilcox

Staff: Kendall Klingelsmith, Parks and Recreation Director
Lisa Denoyer, Administrative Assistant

Absent with notification: Jennifer Buchanan

Minutes Approved

Minutes of the Monday, May 10, 2021 meeting were read and approved. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Schemanski, seconded by Commissioner Terry, with all members present voting aye.

YEAS: Bush, Schemanski, Turk, Walker, Terry, Wilcox (6)

NAYS: (0)

New Business

New Member Orientation

Cody Wilcox introduced himself to the Commission. Mr. Wilcox was raised in Petoskey. After college he was a teacher in the Boyne City School District until deciding to work full-time at Toski Sands, which he has done the last few years. He has a passion for parks and recreation and is excited about contributing to the development and vision of the Parks and Recreation Department. Welcome Cody!

The rest of the Commissioners introduced themselves to Mr. Wilcox and welcomed him to the Commission.

Bear River Water Trail Presentation

Emily Meyerson, a planning consultant to Bear Creek Township, shared a presentation with the Commission about a potential water trail on the Bear River. The water trail would encompass the entire river with primary and secondary access points throughout. There are several steps in the process before funding requests are officially made but the water trail is a viable opportunity for enhancement of outdoor recreation in the area. The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council will be overseeing a "Friends Group" to assist with trail maintenance and potential funding sources.

Commissioner Terry expressed excitement for the water trail as he is familiar with “Paddle Antrim” and sees this as a great benefit to the area.

Commissioner Turk appreciated the informative presentation and expressed the importance of educating the Visitors and Convention Bureau and Chamber of Commerce to the plan so they know the location of access points. He also suggested an avenue to put a “conditions status” on the trail once established.

Commissioner Walker wanted to make sure accessibility was considered when planning access points.

Sunset Park Improvements Overview

Director Klingelsmith shared a concept of Sunset Park improvements that included an accessible sidewalk, seating areas, fencing and native landscaping. The Commission liked the concept. Tim Knutsen, Landscape Architect from Beckett and Raeder, provided another option which showed more of a meandering path and additional ADA seating. The Commission felt the second option was more appropriate for the property, supported improvements to Sunset Park and look forward to them being completed.

Commissioner Terry feels something needs to be done to the park to improve the accessibility and usage. He expressed appreciation to the vision.

Arboretum Overview

Director Klingelsmith briefed the Commission on the historical maintenance of the arboretum which was mowed, and tightly trimmed for 30 years. Staff started to manage the land differently, converting it to more of a natural state. During the last few years, the water levels eroded the shoreline and required significant investment in utility rerouting and shoreline revetment. Staff is working with a variety of resources to come up with a plan to manage the arboretum area with a more natural approach that includes native shoreline plantings, wild flowers, pollinators and natural growth areas. The director discussed the process, which could take a year, to treat the soil properly so the seeds and plantings thrive. The purpose of the discussion was to prepare the Commission for any public response and to gather input and support. The Commission supports improving the area through the vision provided by staff.

Commissioner Walker referenced a local business, North by Nature which may compliment the Michigan Wildflower Farm in planning and vegetative resources.

Commissioner Terry added he has visited botanical gardens in other communities and supports this vision of the property.

Directors Report

Director Klingelsmith gave updates on the Iron Belle/Bear River Bridge project and encouraged all Commissioners to visit the site. Recreation programs seem to be recovering and are close to 2019 participation numbers. Hopefully this winter, the City will have access to the school gyms where basketball and volleyball programs are held. Director Klingelsmith referenced how busy the marina and campground have been and the likelihood of record revenue amounts being achieved at the conclusion of the season.

Upcoming projects were discussed starting with the livable shoreline project, which was a grant received from the PHSACF. The project will showcase the benefit of native shoreline plantings. The project location will be in the area behind the playground by the promenade and between the A pier and boat launch.

There will be a bid opening on the September 14th for Little Traverse Wheelway resurfacing. The City has \$100,000 budgeted and will see how many linear feet can be addressed with that amount.

The capital needs assessment process has taken place. Staff is waiting for a draft document to review but hopes to have a presentation at the October meeting.

The budget and Capital Improvement Plan have been turned in and are currently under review by the Finance Department. There are no significant increases in any of the budgets.

Lastly, Director Klingelsmith received the preliminary scores for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the Winter Sports Park ice rink pavilion development, Boor property acquisition and the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the Park Avenue Corridor expansion downtown. While the grants scored well, there is still some opportunity for additional points.

Miscellaneous

Commissioner Walker indicated the Petoskey Area Garden Club is working with the City to install a Children's Garden at Arlington Park.

Commissioner Schemanski asked if any rates would be increasing. Director Klingelsmith responded that no increases were proposed to City Council.

Commissioner Terry noticed some cracks in the breakwall concrete. Director Klingelsmith stated that he has been in contact with the Army Corps of Engineers and they are aware of the issues.

Commissioner Turk provided some comments about a Frisbee golf hole that was moved during construction of the Iron Belle Bridge. The hole has been relocated close to where it was before construction. He also met with the volleyball group and asked about some issues that have already been discussed with staff.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M. Motion for adjournment was made by Commissioner Schemanski, seconded by Commissioner Bush.

YEAS: Bush, Schemanski, Turk, Walker, Terry, Wilcox (6)

NAYS: (0)

The next scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, October 11, 2021. The meeting will be held at Petoskey City Hall.

Minutes reviewed and approved by Kendall Klingelsmith, Director of Parks and Recreation.