

APPROVED MINUTES

Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Commission Electronically Conducted Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – 6:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE/DECLARATION OF QUORUM – ROLL CALL AND LOCATION IDENTIFICATION

- A. Commission Members Present: Liz Busch, Pete Little, Brian Mitchell & Desirea Woodworth
Commissioners above indicated they were present in Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County, MI.
Jef Fisher, present in Grand Rapids, Ionia County, Michigan
Commission Members Absent: Jim Batcheller, Brian Sponseller
- B. Welcome new Commissioner Desirea Woodworth, term ending 12/31/2023
- C. Parks and Recreation Staff Present: Bundy, Longoria, Way

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES & COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Changes/Approval of Agenda – motion by Busch, second by Fisher to approve the agenda as presented. All Ayes.
- B. Approval of Minutes – motion by Mitchell, second by Busch to approve the meeting minutes from Tuesday, November 17, 2020. All Ayes.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

- A. Nominations & Elections of Chair and Vice-Chair – Floor opened by Chair Little for nominations of Chair and Vice-Chair.
Chair position: Busch nominates little, second by Fisher. There were no other nominations. Voting took place and members unanimously elected Pete Little to stay on as chair for 2021.
Vice-chair position: Busch nominates Fisher, second by Mitchell. There were no other nominations. Voting took place and members unanimously elected Jef Fisher as vice-chair for 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

PUBLIC HEARING – Adopt a Bench Program – public hearing opened by Chair Little.

- A. Carter Craig Moody – after receiving no public comments, motion by Busch, second by Fisher to approve the bench application petitioned by The City of Mt. Pleasant Staff in Memorial of Carter Moody and directs staff to complete the Lifecycle Agreement for the installation and maintenance of a bench per the City’s Adopt-A-Bench/Table Policy. All Ayes.
- B. Mindy Norton – after receiving no public comments, motion by Fisher, second by Busch to approve the bench application petitioned by The City of Mt. Pleasant Staff in Memorial of Mindy Norton and directs staff to complete the Lifecycle Agreement for the installation and maintenance of a bench per the City’s Adopt-A-Bench/Table Policy. All Ayes.
- C. Set Public Hearing Larry Siefker Bench Donation– motion by Mitchell, second by Busch to set a public hearing for February 23, 2021 to consider bench donation. All Ayes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- A. Parks – Director Bundy reported on the following:
- Electronic meetings have been approved through March so we will meet again via Zoom until then.

- Master Plan was adopted by City Commission in December. Parks portion of the plan has been submitted to MDNR, which when accepted allows us to apply for future grants.
- The City received payout from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the 2020 Island Park Trail and Bridge Project.
- Staff has been working on various maintenance items in parks buildings and continues to upgrade restroom fixtures.
- Requests for 2021 shelter rentals and softball tournaments are coming in; we are approving these requests with the understanding that we will be enforcing the current state and local health orders for Covid-19 that are in place at the time of the event which may include limited capacities or potential cancelation of events.

B. Recreation – Director Longoria reported on the following:

- With Covid restrictions, all youth sports are on hold until at least through Feb. 21. The winter youth flag football pop up program has been rescheduled to start Feb. 28.
- Staff working on spring and summer planning. Camp PEAK – meeting with MPPS and City leadership to be able to offer a program that is safe and keeps everyone healthy.
- Afterschool PEAK started back up in January and is going well. Full-time Recreation staff has been helping with staffing gaps at the five sites.
- 2021 Farmers’ Market planning with staff Carol Moody. New this year is May start date (normally June) for Island Park market. This allows for earlier sale of plants and flowers.
- Receiving 2021 city-wide special event requests.
- Drive-in movies planned for Feb. 5 & 6 at Island Park softball fields with a football themed movie “Remember the Titans”. Feb. 26 & 27 movie will be “community choice”. Movies are free and pre-registration is required.

Member Busch asked if staff has thought about doing virtual events that focus on Mt. Pleasant parks and places, i.e. finding animal tracks in the snow, or scavenger hunts. Per staff Longoria we are working city CMU-RPL to come up with activities that keep people active and away from the screen, watch for these in upcoming months.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

A. CIP and Potential 2021 Projects – Due to the uncertainty of the economy and the impact on City finances in 2021 the City Commission voted to move a significant number of projects in the capital improvement plan forward to future years. This action moved all Park projects forward to 2022 and beyond. In this “gap-year” staff has proposed some potential lower cost projects in 2021 that could potentially be addressed to help support proactive maintenance and the recently adopted 2050 City Master Plan:

- ✓ Convert two tennis courts to eight pickle ball courts at Island Park
- ✓ Purchase remainder of outdoor fitness equipment for recently completed trail addition at Island Park
- ✓ Mill Pond Adams Street parking lot repair
- ✓ Purchase Toro Sand Pro sports field prep unit to reduce maintenance costs

OTHER BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Member Busch would like to point out the lack of pedestrian sidewalk on Oak Street. With the new development going in next to city hall she has concerns about traffic not being able to see pedestrians as they walk up and down the Oak Street hill headed into Island Park. If a sidewalk isn't feasible because of the hill grade, she would like to see that portion of the road made one way (from Broadway to Michigan) or closed to vehicular traffic completely.

Member Busch – the Lake Isabella Homeowners' Association is organizing a Parks & Recreation Dept. and is looking for input on a master plan to include a full spectrum of opportunities for their property, of which includes a large portion that runs along the Chippewa River corridor. This opportunity ties into the Chippewa River Master Plan.

ADJOURNMENT – 6:48 p.m.