

APPROVED MINUTES

Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Commission

SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

City Hall Chambers, 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE/DECLARATION OF QUORUM

- A. Commission Members Present: Batcheller, Little, Hamel, Mitchell, Sponseller
- B. Parks and Recreation Staff: Biscorner, Longoria, Moody, Way

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES & COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Changes/Approval of Agenda – Motion by Mitchell, second by Batcheller to move Old/New Business under Public Comments, and move Election of Officers under Department Reports. All Ayes.
- B. Approval of Minutes – Motion by Mitchell, second by Batcheller to approve the meeting minutes from Tuesday, November 22, 2022. All Ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tanja Dunn, 962 E. Beal City Rd., spoke in support of pickleball court expansion.

Lucia Elden, 1414 Orchard, spoke in support of keeping tennis courts.

Bob Sommerville, 3678 St. Andrews Dr., spoke in support of keeping tennis courts.

Steve Powers, 1875 Scully Dr., spoke in support of keeping tennis courts.

Adam Grifka, 628 W. Broomfield, Apt, 8, spoke in support of conceptual plan for Indian Pines and the economic impact that this would bring to the community.

Mike Ring, Owner, Motorless Motion, 121 S. Main Street, spoke in favor of bike trails in Indian Pines.

Jack Bunker, 4465 S. Monroe, spoke in favor of pickleball court expansion.

Mary Montoye, 1212 Forest Lane, spoke in favor of a combined effort in order to find a resolution to meet the needs of both pickleball and tennis groups.

Malcolm Fox, representing the Central Michigan Mountain Bike Assn., offered up fundraising and design help for the proposed Indian Pines concept.

Lily Boutwell, Gratiot-Isabella RESD, offered assistance for the community garden in Horizon Park.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- A. Island Park Tennis Courts – Director Biscorner addressed the group. Parks Dept. was originally tasked to build pickleball courts at Horizon Park, but the project was cost prohibitive. (\$115,000 budgeted; project was estimated at \$300,000 for six courts). The easiest way to meet the pickleball group’s needs is to convert the tennis courts in Island Park as there are other places within Mt. Pleasant to play tennis.
Comm. Mitchell – has concerns with the “there are other facilities” to play tennis, it is not fair to put our community’s tennis needs on the backs of the high school or CMU.
Comm. Batcheller – Island Park is the crown jewel of our parks’ system, and he has concerns about eliminating the tennis courts. Can we add courts elsewhere, perhaps in cooperation with the township, use crowdfunding or create a “friends” group to seek other sources of funding?
After discussion, motion by Batcheller, second by Mitchell to put the current plan to convert the tennis courts to pickle ball courts on hold and recommend that Parks & Public Spaces Director Biscorner create a focus group to come up with a potential solution for use of facilities. All Ayes.

- B. Community Garden Horizon Park – with vandalism and theft issues in this area of town, this will be a unique opportunity to engage the community to create ownership and investment in their park. After discussion, motion by Sponseller, second by Hamel in support of a community garden in Horizon Park. All Ayes.
- C. Juvenile Court Garden Mill Pond Leaton Street – this a renewal of a previous agreement. The garden is located in a fenced in area that the city no longer uses. The group has done a nice job with the gardens over the summer months.
Motion by Batcheller, second by Hamel in support of a three-year agreement with the Isabella County Juvenile Court for a garden on Leaton Street near Mill Pond Park. All Ayes.
- D. Zonta Signage Mill Pond Shelter- Zonta Club would like to replace their sign in Mill Pond shelter as it has weathered.
Motion by Mitchell, second by Hamel in support of the Zonta Club’s new signage. All Ayes.
- E. Indian Pines Update – conceptual drawings were shared with the commission. Parking spaces were discussed (how many may be needed). After further discussion, motion by Batcheller, second by Sponseller to recommend that Parks staff move forward with the design concept for Indian Pines.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- A. Parks – Director Biscorner reported on the following:
 - Island Park restroom project moving along, few delays with materials; looking at spring completion.
 - Nelson Park maintenance building project – completion mid-February.
 - M-20 Bridge replacement – Fall 2023
 - Parks maintenance plan – Director Biscorner to pick a consultant.
 - North trail loop grant – did not receive MDNR Trust Fund Grant, applied for SPARK grant through MDNR.
 - Megan Bair from For Arts Sake was awarded an \$8,000 grant from the CVB to paint the outside features of the Skate Park.
- B. Recreation – Director Longoria reported on the following:
 - PEAK Summer Camp – dates and sites are finalized; registration open Feb. 28.
 - Youth basketball league at Morey Courts has started with approx. 265 participants.
 - Daddy Daughter Date Night was held Sunday, Feb. 26 at the Comfort Inn.
 - Chili Challenge 5K race to be held Saturday, Feb. 4. starting at Island Park.
 - Under the Big Top event, in partnership with WCZY radio, to be held Friday, Feb. 10th at Morey Courts.
 - Spring soccer & tee ball registration has opened for 2023 season.
 - Seasonal hiring (will need all new Recreation Assistants this spring).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- A. Nominations of Chair and Vice-Chair – floor opened by Chair Little.
For the Chair position, Mitchell nominates Little, second by Batcheller. There were no other nominations. For the Vice-Chair position, Little nominates Sponseller, second by Mitchell. There were no other nominations.
- B. Elections – Voting took place and members unanimously elected Pete Little as Chair, and Brian Sponseller as Vice Chair.

OTHER BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS - The commission is currently down two members. The board has asked suggested we advertise on social media, (Facebook & Instagram)

ADJOURNMENT – 7:10 p.m.