

Approved Minutes

Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Commission
Electronically Conducted Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – 6:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE/DECLARATION OF QUORUM – ROLL CALL AND LOCATION IDENTIFICATION

A. Commission Members Present: Jim Batcheller, Liz Busch, Pete Little, Brian Mitchell, Desirea Woodworth

All members present in Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County, Michigan.

B. Commission Members Absent: Brian Sponseller

C. Parks and Recreation Staff: Brune, Bundy, Longoria, Way

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES & COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Changes/Approval of Agenda – motion by Batcheller, second by Mitchell to approve the agenda as presented. All Ayes.

B. Approval of Minutes – motion by Woodworth, second by Batcheller to approve the meeting minutes from February 23, 2021. All Ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

SET PUBLIC HEARING

A. Adopt-a-Bench Debra Lynn Schwiderson – motion by Batcheller, second by Mitchell to set a public hearing for Tuesday, April 27, 2021 to receive input on this proposed bench placement. All Ayes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Parks – Director Bundy reported on the following:

- One full-time park staff bid on a position with the Street Dept., and will likely be moving May 1, leaving a position available in parks. Staff hopes to have this position justified and potentially filled sometime in June.
- Some seasonal positions are filled and have already started. Low applicant pool so far this year.
- With the warmer weather, there has been an increase in folks enjoying our parks system.

B. Recreation – Director Longoria reported on the following:

- Staff is partnering with CVB for Back-to-the-Bricks car show which most likely will not happen in the city due to current CMDHD emergency order which limits gathering size. CVB looking at alternate sites to hold car show.
- Dog Park Advisory Board met recently; they are looking to revive fundraising efforts for lighting project.
- PEAK permanent part-time office position available – hope to fill by June 7.
- Spring youth soccer and tee-ball – 500 total registrations. Coaches meet tonight and tomorrow with practices starting week of April 12. An updated executive order from MHDSS expanded testing guidelines for 13-19 year old athletes and

affects approx. 30 participants in our leagues. Staff is awaiting additional guidelines and protocol from CMDHD to carry out this order.

- Staff partnering with WCFX, Graff, Thrive Church, Morey Courts, Veterans Memorial Library, Discovery Museum and Art Reach to offer MPPR Great Egg Rec 'n Ramble, The Egg-Cellent Adventure: Drive Thru Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3 from 1-4 p.m.
- Finalizing plans for farmer's market start on Thursday, May 6.
- Chipp River Master Plan – working with consultants to finalize plan; next step is “management of plan”.

Comm. Woodworth commented on the Rec 'n Ramble event, it is well thought out and has great prizes, kudos to those involved!

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- A. City Parks Ordinance Update – working with legal counsel, Director Bundy presented several updates to the City Parks Ordinance, with the intent to update and modernize some of the language.

After review and discussion of considered changes, motion by Comm. Batcheller, second by Woodworth to recommend the City Commission adopt the attached changes to amend said ordinance to more accurately reflect updated information and to better serve the citizens of Mt. Pleasant.

- B. Horizon Park Ball Diamond - One of the new master plan goals is to focus on the east side of the community with expanded recreation opportunities, and the fostering of increased relationships with our community partners. These partnerships could add amenities that would make public facilities more available for use. Some of these amenities might include lights on tennis courts, benches along walking path, splash pad, smaller shelters, increased parking, while finding ways to maximize and modernize park space.

With decreased participation in adult softball and with the danger of foul balls being a hazard to neighboring homes and condominiums, staff is recommending decommissioning of the ball diamond at the park. Fencing can be repurposed for planned pickleball courts and we can reuse infield stone dust material at other facilities. Staff would also include a future neighborhood meeting to ask what other amenities neighbors in the area would like to see.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mitchell, second by Busch to recommend to the City Commission that the existing ball diamond at Horizon Park be decommissioned to reduce existing conflict of use, add additional space for desired facilities and allow for the repurposing of ball diamond materials for other park needs. All Ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS - none

ADJOURNMENT – 6:43 p.m.