

APPROVED MINUTES

Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Commission
ELECTRONICALLY CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM
Tuesday, May 19, 2020
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOME NEW COMMISSIONER -Jeff Fisher

ATTENDANCE AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

- A. Commission Members Present: Barber, Batcheller, Busch, Fisher, Little, Mitchell, Sponseller
- B. Commission Members Absent: None
- C. Parks and Recreation Staff: Bundy, Longoria

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES & COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Changes/Approval of Agenda – motion by Busch, second by Mitchell to approve the agenda as presented. Motion unanimously carried.
- B. Approval of Minutes – motion by Mitchell, second by Sponseller to approve the meeting minutes from Tuesday, February 25, 2020. Motion unanimously carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- A. Parks – Director Bundy reported on the following:
 - Flooding in the parks, currently closed due to high water: Riverside Cemetery (muddy roads), Island Park, Nelson, and part of Chipp-a-Waters (back trails). May see some damage as this flooding event higher than normal spring flooding. Two playgrounds are being stored in Merchant’s Building in Island Park (one belonging to and being stored for Union Township); small parts in boxes were stored in the loft area of the building. Union Township to install their playground in late June; City to install in September.
 - City currently will not be hiring summer seasonal parks employees for foreseeable future; parks typically hires 25 seasonal staff. Our current four staff (full-time including Parks Operations Coordinator Craig Brune) are busy in the field, addressing trash (cans and ground) and mowing, focusing on cemetery and monuments (challenges with mowing due to high water levels, particularly at Island Park memorial areas). Focus is on preparing areas frequented by the public during the Memorial Day Holiday.
 - Restrooms in the parks not open due to CDC guidelines and current staffing levels to clean and maintain.
Chair Little asked if the City considered putting port-a-johns in the Parks? Yes, it was considered but cost prohibitive due to daily cleaning

requirements. Also considering opening restrooms and contracting out the cleaning, cost dependent.

- Staff getting requests to use/rent facilities for future dates, and with CDC guidelines and changes, we are unable to answer these requests currently. All May and June rentals have been canceled and we are doing our best to reschedule to future dates (or give refund).
- Projects Proceeding in 2020
 - Island/Pickens Bridge and Trail project will likely start in July. Staff meeting with contractors next week and as soon as water recedes, contractor and staff will determine mobilization for the project. New bridge will be removed in July and replaced late August.
 - Septic system replacement at Chipp-a-Waters slated for late June.
 - Nelson Park walkway project will begin in early July.
 - Skate park will be getting some new fencing and putting in a rail where the skate boards hit the fence.
 - Island Park ball field irrigation awarded to Thielen Turf & Irrigation, that work should begin in Mid-June.
 - Reroof of cemetery mausoleum to begin in late June early July.
 - Final amphitheater work to sandblast and seal concrete with graffiti resistant coating will begin in late June.
- Master Plan – Options are being looked at to continue or replace cancelled open houses. The Parks & Recreation Commission will be conducting a public hearing sometime in the future, making a recommendation to the City Commission. Public can continue to view the plan online and give feedback here: www.mtpleasant2050.com.

B. Recreation – Director Longoria reported on the following:

- USAJO Softball Tournament tentatively postponed from June to August 13-16. Staff is monitoring USA Softball, NRPA and other sporting organization guidelines for returning to safe play.
- PEAK working closely with MPPS and licensing to offer summer camps. Staff put together an outline for senior management as to how the program would look, running in a safe and healthy manner. A survey was also sent out to parents gauging their interest.
- All adults sport registration postponed until further notice.
- Farmers market starting Thursday, June 4, Saturday market starts June 20. No outside seating, entertainment, no non-essential item sales allowed, vendor/shopper social distancing and masks will be required. SNAP and DUBF programs will be in place (\$20 DUBF limit has been temporarily lifted). State of Michigan is issuing to every child that qualifies for free/reduced lunch a pandemic bridge card. MPPS to help communicate the benefit of the DUBF at our farmer's market. Recreation full-time staff will be working the market. Member Mitchell asked if the market will have access to pedestrians or drive thru? Market Master Carol Moody has been working with the Midland market and felt the drive-thru aspect was not efficient so we will have pedestrian traffic (staff will be monitoring numbers). Staff also working out details with vendors to offer curbside delivery.

- *Go the Distance* Virtual Run 2020 – sponsored by MPPR and put together by staff Hofer, proceeds to United Way COVID-19 fund. Details at www.mt-pleasant.org/gtd

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS - none

OTHER BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS – Director Bundy asked for comments on the Zoom meeting format, and how it worked for everyone as future meetings may be conducted in this manner. All agreed the format worked well.

ADJOURNMENT 7:15 p.m.