

APPROVED MINUTES

**Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Commission
Electronically Conducted Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 6:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER – 6:06 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE/DECLARATION OF QUORUM – ROLL CALL AND LOCATION IDENTIFICATION

- A. Commission Members Present: Batcheller, Busch, Little, Mitchell, Woodworth
- B. Commission Members Absent: Mumford, Sponseller
- B. Parks and Recreation Staff: Biscorner, Longoria, Way

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES & COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Changes/Approval of Agenda – Under Adopt-a-Bench Program, A-1. Set Public Hearing for October 26 add the name In Memory of Gene Kunst.
Other Business Add A. Canal Street Park
Motion by Mitchell, second by Woodworth to approve amended agenda. All Ayes.
- B. Approval of Minutes – Motion by Batcheller, second by Mitchell to approve the meeting minutes from Tuesday, July 27, 2021. All Ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. Kathleen Bracken, 1010 Canal Street. Ms. Bracken shared commissioned drawings of Canal Street Park in the interest of developing the space naturally to protect the floodplain.
Jessica Roth, 905 Canal Street. Ms. Roth spoke in favor of having a “natural park”. She would like to see trees for shade installed along with natural plantings.
Comm. Busch spoke in favor of these elements.
Comm. Woodworth also spoke in favor of a natural playscape as it promotes a different type of play in children.
Comm. Batcheller warned of the park becoming a “destination park” rather than a neighborhood park. The neighbors have stated they do not want a parking lot or increased traffic.

PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Adopt-a-Bench Program
 - 1. Set Public Hearing for October 26, 2021 – In Memory of Bonny Lyon & Gene Kunst
Motion by Busch, second by Woodworth to set public hearing. All Ayes.
 - 2. Public Hearing – Kiwanis Bench Adoption
Public Hearing opened by Chair Little. There were not public comments. After discussion, motion by Batcheller, second by Busch to approve the bench application petitioned by Dave Foster in honor of Mt. Pleasant Kiwanis and directs staff to complete the Lifecycle Agreement for the installation and maintenance of a bench to be located at Island Park near Timbertown. All Ayes.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Parks – Director Biscorner reported on the following:

- Fall 2% requests submitted:
Indian Pines Master Plan (this was in the budget for 2020) and will be bid out in spring or summer 2022
Horizon Park Pickle Ball Courts
Mid-Michigan Pathway Nelson Park to Mission Creek (in partnership with Union Twp.)
- Health Dept. Sharps Containers – approached by CMDHD to put Sharps containers in all parks restrooms facilities. They would be attached to the wall and it would be the responsibility of the Health Dept. to empty and replace.

Comm. Busch asked staff to research other parks systems so see how they have handled this.

Comm. Batcheller and Mitchell both asked if we find used needles in the parks. No, staff has not been finding them in the parks.

Comm. Woodworth commented that the doors in the women's restrooms at Sunnyside and Island Parks do not close properly and she feels this is a safety hazard. Director Biscorner responded that staff is currently in the process of fixing these and other maintenance items within the parks system.

Comm. Busch asked that staff check on the Horizon Park light fixtures, to make sure they are working properly as that is a dark area in the park.

B. Recreation – Director Longoria Reported on the Following:

- PEAK numbers are good at the K-5 sites, the middle school numbers are very low and we will be monitoring this site for future sustainability. New staff is coming on but levels are still low.
- Registration for youth basketball & volleyball at Morey Courts ends Oct. 6; no masking will be required for participants/families following facility guidelines however, staff will be required to mask-up.
- Pumpkin Promenade - downtown on Friday, Oct. 29 from 4-6 p.m. All festivities will be strictly outdoors to avoid congestion in storefronts.
- Christmas Celebration – Festivities to be held Dec. 3-4.

Comm. Woodworth inquired as to why the department does not use a local photographer for youth sports. Director Longoria replied that we have not been able to get anyone local to bid on the contract.

OTHER BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

A. Canal Street Park – Director Biscorner attended a neighborhood picnic in late August to gather input on future development of the park. Budgeted is \$80,000; the master plan calls for signage, a simple play structure, benches, grill, bike rack, river overlook.

Comm. Busch would like to see the plan include more to mitigate flooding and not do more damage.

Chair Little recommended that all commissioners go and look at this park again and review the master plan.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:05 p.m.