

The Regular Meeting for March 5, 2020 of the Parks/Harbor Commission was called to order by Chair Donald Stoneburner at 6:32 pm in the City Council Chambers at New Buffalo City Hall, 224 W. Buffalo Street, New Buffalo, MI 49117.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Parks/Harbor Commission.

### **Roll Call**

Present: Chair, Don Stoneburner; Commission members, Susan Stoneburner, Linda Henderson, Tom Smith

Absent: Mark Gabryszewski

**Motion** by Commission member Smith, seconded by Commission member S. Stoneburner to excuse Mark Gabryszewski from the meeting to work on the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Unanimous 4-0, **Motion Carried**.

Staff present: City Manager, David Richards; Parks Superintendent Kristen D'Amico; City Clerk, Amy Fidler; Deputy Clerk, Nancy Griffin

### **Approval of Agenda**

**Motion** by Commission member Henderson, seconded by Commission member Smith to approve the agenda.

Unanimous 4-0, **Motion Carried**.

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

**Motion** by Commission member Smith, seconded by Commission member S. Stoneburner to approve the minutes of Special Meeting, February 11, 2020.

Unanimous 4-0, **Motion Carried**.

### **Public Comment**

Nora Howe – Commented about water safety and lifeguards and introduced herself.

### **Old Business**

- Dredge Fund contributions  
Chair D. Stoneburner provided an update containing:
  - An email sent to the associations to address contributions and to invite them to the April Parks/Harbor Commission meeting

- The process to verify boat slip footage has begun.  
Per D. Stoneburner, all associations should make a contribution to the Dredge fund.  
Per Parks Superintendent D’Amico, the City matches the contribution of the associations to keep funds available, \$37,298.
    - Report is due two weeks prior to the Dredge Fund meeting.  
Commission member Henderson would like the number of boat slips to be shared.
- Beach Clean-up alternate date and time  
Parks Superintendent D’Amico proposed an alternate date to be in mid or late March and commented volunteers on weekdays is easier for the City staff.  
Commission member Henderson asked if anyone has contacted the school for students to fulfill their community service requirement.  
  
Beach Clean up dates are, March 21 and April 18, 2020 at 9:00am both days.
  - ✓ Dates to be posted on the City website

## **New Business**

- Budget review  
Chair D. Stoneburner reminded the Commission of the budget review given by the City Treasurer and the next step for the budget is to go to City Council.

**Motion** by Chair D. Stoneburner, seconded by Commission member Smith to approve the FY 2020-2021 budget.

Unanimous 4-0, **Motion Carried**.

- Parks millage  
Parks Superintendent D’Amico shared a list of improvements over the past year that were funded by the Parks Millage.  
Millage discussion planned for July 2, 2020 meeting.  
Per City Manager Richards, Abonmarche will be attending the July meeting and are helping to promote the millage.
  - Chair D. Stoneburner to find out the percentage that shows on homeowner’s taxes from Assessor Northrop.
  - Send out notifications to the meeting
- Gravel at the Dog Park  
Commission member S. Stoneburner would like more slag at the Dog Park
  - Parks Superintendent D’Amico to grade the Dog Park parking lot area
- Lifeguard update  
Parks Superintendent D’Amico introduced the new Head Lifeguard, Nate Carlson.  
Nate shared some of his background and qualifications.

Per Parks Superintendent D'Amico, the City has three lifeguards returning from last year and one other potential lifeguard returning. The City would like to have seven to eight lifeguards total, including the head lifeguard. Beach staff starts in May.

- Nate to reach out to the YMCA to see if anyone is interested
- Children's Borrow-a-Life-Jacket Program  
Program suggested by Tony McGhee.
  - Possibly use the Deputy Grant to fund this program. The grant will be evaluated on May 15, 2020.  
Renaming the program to "Safe Kids Station".  
The Safe Kids Station will be located near the lifeguard station and the life jackets will be brought in at night. Commission member Smith inquired if a deposit or driver's license will be required to borrow a life jacket. Parks Superintendent D'Amico responded there will not be a deposit required and the lifeguards will be responsible for life jacket returns.  
All Commission members liked the idea and to go forward with the grant submission.

### **Administrative Comment**

City Manager Richards conveyed to the Commission that the City Council approved the cement blocks to be installed along the sculpture garden to protect Whittaker Street and hold back the water from the sculpture garden and the roadway. The blocks will be installed in the next two weeks and be completed by the end of March.

### **Commission Comment**

Great idea to have volunteers help clean up the beach. There is a lot of debris.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion** by Commission member Smith, seconded by Commission member Henderson to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Unanimous 4-0, **Motion Carried.**

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Donald Stoneburner, Chairperson

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Nancy Griffin, Deputy Clerk