



Park/Harbor Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda
February 4, 2021
6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – January 7, 2021
4. Public Comment
5. Old Business
 - a. Beach Rake Update
 - b. Dune Walk Update
 - c. Smith Street Pocket Park
 - d. Park Millage and Possible Projects
6. New Business
 - a. Parking Fees
7. Commission Comments
8. Adjournment

Call to Order at 6:33 pm.

Roll Call. All Present in New Buffalo, MI, Berrien County: Chair, Don Stoneburner; Linda Henderson, Mark Gabryszewski, Tom Smith, Susan Stoneburner.

Absent: Linda Henderson was on the meeting, but microphone was not working until the middle of meeting.

Motion by D. Stoneburner seconded by Smith to excuse Henderson from meeting: roll call vote, motion carried, 4-0.

Approval of Agenda. Motion by Smith, seconded by S. Stoneburner to approve the agenda: roll call vote, motion carried, 4-0.

Approval of Previous Minutes, November 5, 2020. Motion by Smith, seconded by D. Stoneburner to approve November 5, 2020 minutes: roll call vote, motion carried, 4-0.

Member Henderson was able to speak at this time during the meeting.

Public Comment

Nora Howe – A member of the Lifeguard Committee. Committee has 9 members and communicated that lifeguards are extremely important. The City has four lifeguards returning and currently advertising for more. The goal is to have seven lifeguards with some extras. Certifications are needed.

Old Business

None

New Business

- a. Communication with the City Council on Direction of the Dredge Fund

D. Stoneburner gave a quick overview. The Dredge Fund has a balance of \$360,000. The Mayor is researching a grant that may include dredging. Henderson suggested to maybe have a meeting in April or May with the associations to explain the importance of dredging.

- D. Stoneburner is to send the Mayor a list of associations and their contributions.

b. Discuss the Vendor Authorities and Responsibilities on City Properties

D. Stoneburner reminded the commission they need to be aware of what's in vendor contracts and the City's ordinances. For example, the kayak rental company has a storage structure in the boat launch parking lot. Per the Parks Director, the structure will be removed after the season.

c. Update on the Marquette Greenway Trail and Trailhead

D. Stoneburner remarked there was a survey being done in the last two weeks on Willard Street. The Mayor was aware of the survey. Tony McGhee from Abonmarche explained the street must have sidewalks to be considered as part of the project. S. Stoneburner remarked Willard St. is too busy in the summertime. Henderson agreed with S. Stoneburner and suggested Berrien St. as an alternative.

- McGhee is looking into alternatives.

d. Update on the Transient Marina Fire

An update has been provided in the Park Director's report. Upgrades to the building have been approved. Smith inquired if any grants were available to update the pedestals.

- McGhee is taking the subject to the City Council in January.

e. Discuss the Parks Millage and Possible Projects

The Parks Director explained the millage is a renewal of the millage. On possible use for the money would be to restripe the boat ramp parking lot. The Parks Director suggested the money be used for items/changes the residents could actually see instead of using it for regular maintenance.

- All commissioners are encouraged to send suggestions to the Parks Director.

f. Update on the Dune Walk Project

An update has been provided in the Park Director's report. Tony McGhee is waiting on the grant.

g. Recreation Authority Update

The Authority is proceeding, and it had one meeting. Authority is discussing formats and terms of operation.

h. Parks and Recreation Plan Update

No update.

Commission Comments:

D. Stoneburner paid respects to City Manager, David Richards.

The concrete at the beach is going to be rearranged.

D. Stoneburner asked for any volunteers to be the chairperson of the Park/Harbor Commission.

Adjournment. Motion by D. Stoneburner, seconded by Smith to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Adjournment at 7:16 p.m.

ng.

Donald Stoneburner, Chairperson

Nancy Griffin, Deputy Clerk



February 1, 2021

To: Parks/Harbor members

Winter is here. The parks department has been busy getting projects done.

We have replaced many of the rusted out trash cans with new, both at the city's beach and at Oselka Park. The beach cans got a nice new bright blue, which I have named Papa Smurf blue. Not to worry, we still have the lime green cans as well. Oselka Park cans have been painted the same color as the doors on the pavilion, what can I say I like things to match.

The bathrooms at Oselka Park are receiving a fresh coat of paint, as they haven't been painted in some time. The ice rink is open! Due to COVID the bathrooms will remain closed, but the rental skates are still being put out for all to use.

At the January 25th meeting, council approved the seal coating and restriping of the boat ramp. I am hoping this will help with some of the confusion and congestion down there. With this project we will have the kayak parking spaces striped to a straight in single car lane, hopefully that will help with the boaters parking in their designated area.

I have just ordered another ADA shower for down at the beach this summer, it seems the one we got last year was a hit. I also ordered some new trash cans and a picnic table for the dog park. It seems our dog park has been getting a lot of use now that more people are here full-time and they are working from home.

I have begun the process of getting our lifeguard staff together. As of today, the ad is up in Indeed and on Facebook. I have reached out to the guards from last season and so far I have three that are returning. Hopefully I will hear back from more of them sooner than later.

Routine trash pick-up and snow removal continue at the rest of the city's parks.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen D'Amico
Parks Director