

Zoom Meeting

Call to Order at 6:42 pm.

Roll Call. Present in New Buffalo, MI, Berrien County: Chair, Don Stoneburner; Linda Henderson, Mark Gabryszewski (joined late), Susan Stoneburner.
Tom Smith attended from Boston, MA, Suffolk County.

Absent: none

City employees in attendance: Interim City Manager, Rich Killips; Clerk, Amy Fidler; Deputy Clerk, Nancy Griffin; Parks Director, Kristen D'Amico

Motion by D. Stoneburner seconded by Smith to excuse Gabryszewski 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.

Gabryszewski joined the meeting.

Approval of Previous Minutes, January 7, 2021. Motion by Smith seconded by S. Stoneburner to approve January 7, 2021 minutes: roll call vote, motion carried, 5-0.

Public Comment.

Nora Howe – Dan Donnelly sculpture moved free of charge. She likes the new location in Oselka Park and requesting to put landscaping around it to stop any climbing on the sculpture.
Lifeguards – Noticed an increase in lifeguard wages in Michigan City and notified the Commission. She is hoping to get an increase in the lifeguard budget.

Old Business

a. Beach Rake Update

Parks Director gave an update from the City Council meeting, where the Council approved to put the City's current tractor and beach rake up for auction.

b. Dune Walk Update

Tony McGhee from Abonmarche gave an update which included news that the current foundations were not stable enough to use for the new dune walk. Tony also explained the plans have been adjusted due to the foundation issue. The new dune walk project scope currently includes new foundations, the entire ADA compliant portion of the plan and

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approximately 50% - 60% of the originally planned dune walk. The structure will be a combination of treated lumber and a composite material with completion in June 2021.

McGhee reported the project will be going out for bid soon.

- McGhee will be sending out plans to the Commission members.
- McGhee will be submitting an application for a grant in April for the second portion of the project.

c. Smith Street Pocket Park

Tony McGhee from Abonmarche gave an update reporting the plans are 90% complete and the project is on hold due to the Amtrak easement.

d. Park Millage and Possible Projects

Parks Director reported what has already been done with a portion of the millage money:

- Second shower at the beach
- New trash cans and picnic table at the dog park
- Millage money will also be used to restripe the Boat Launch parking lot this season.

Henderson suggested to keep the residents informed on social media, website, and newspaper.

- D. Stoneburner asked Henderson to help with keeping the public informed.

Additional topic covered – Dredge Fund

Interim City Manager and Mayor gave an update. Henderson suggested to make sure the residents know the City is contributing to the fund.

Motion by D. Stoneburner, seconded by S. Stoneburner to suggest to the City Council to approve the suspension for association contributions in 2019, apply any payments made in 2019 to that association's 2020 contribution and send a bill to the remaining associations who haven't paid: roll call vote, motion carried, 5-0.

New Business

a. Parking Fees

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Interim City Manager suggested increasing the parking rate for all-day parking from \$12 per day to \$15 per day and \$20 per day from July 1st to August 15th.

Parking is enforced from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend. Discussion took place to extend enforcement from May 15th to October 1st.

Smith and Henderson suggested increasing the 3-hour rate also.

Commission members requested more parking revenue information before deciding on a recommendation to City Council.

- Interim City Manager to provide beach parking revenue information to the Commission
- Commission to make a recommendation to City Council at next meeting.

Commission Comments:

Smith remarked the beach is still the most popular place in New Buffalo even at this time of year.

Marina building – Abonmarche is putting together a bid for repairs and will be sending it out in the next 30 days.

Adjournment. Motion by Smith, seconded by Gabryszewski to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Adjournment at 7:36 p.m.

ng.

Donald Stoneburner, Chairperson

Nancy Griffin, Deputy Clerk