

June 3, 2021

Park/Harbor Commission Regular Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting

Call to Order at 6:31 pm.

Roll Call. All Present in New Buffalo, MI, Berrien County:

Chair, Don Stoneburner, Linda Henderson, Susan Stoneburner, Tom Smith

Mark Gabryszewski joined late from New Buffalo, MI Berrien County.

Approval of Agenda. Motion by Henderson, seconded by S. Stoneburner to approve the agenda:

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Smith , S. Stoneburner, Henderson, D. Stoneburner

NAYES :

ABSENT : Gabryszewski

ABSTAINED:

Motion Carried, 4-0.

Approval of Previous Minutes, April 1, 2021. Motion by Smith, seconded by Henderson to approve April 1, 2021 minutes:

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Smith, S. Stoneburner, Henderson, D. Stoneburner

NAYES :

ABSENT : Gabryszewski

ABSTAINED:

Motion Carried, 4-0.

Commissioner Gabryszewski joined the meeting at approximately 6:35pm.

Public Comment

None.

Parks Director Report

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Commissioner S. Stoneburner remarked about the amount of money already collected from parking.

Conversation of duck weed took place. Per the Parks Director, the DNR responded it is an invasive species and there is nothing that can be done about it.

Commissioner Henderson remarked the new Marina Manager/Harbor Master, Audrey Tuszyński is a terrific asset.

Old Business**a. Dredge Fund Update**

Pleasure Isle paid their contribution to the Dredge Fund.

No other payments were received.

b. Community Garden 2022

Commissioner S. Stoneburner is pursuing it.

Discussion: Oselka Park is not a good choice. Next to the High School parking lot may be an option, since a water source is available. The need for fencing and volunteers was discussed.

Commissioner S. Stoneburner knows of 15 people from New Buffalo who travel to Chikaming Township to use their community garden.

Commissioner Henderson offered up the following suggestions: any opportunities like a joint location with the Township, Gold's Gym property or south of Detroit St.

Commissioner S. Stoneburner will start looking for a location and make a recommendation.

Chair D. Stoneburner remarked the Commission will revisit the topic at the September 2021 meeting and it will be a goal for next year.

New Business**c. Bathymetric Survey Results**

Chair D. Stoneburner received the report and reported there will not be a need to dredge this year.

The Parks Director added the Federal Channel is currently 10' deep.

a. Lifeguard Program and Budget

The lifeguards will be on duty 5 days a week, Thursdays – Mondays, not 7 days as previously discussed.

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The City has 6 full-time and 1 part-time lifeguard. One lifeguard is not returning. It was reported the City Council approved the lifeguard budget.

d. Access to Break Wall Discussion

Chair D. Stoneburner remarked that we cannot put up a fence across the jetty, at this time. He also said the current policies should be followed and to make plans to pursue the topic next year.

Commissioner Henderson brought to the Commission's attention that the Commission has been pursuing a barrier across the jetty for approximately 10 years. Commissioner Smith agreed.

The Parks Director recalled getting opposition in past years from residents when the topic was discussed. Broken ankles, cuts, scrapes and hits on the head are a few of the injuries recorded.

Parks Director has been asked to keep statistics of injuries.

Commissioner Smith suggested to gather the cost of a fence and present it to the City Council.

Commissioner Henderson would like to put this topic on the agenda for the September meeting and to check with Abonmarche.

e. Marina Restrooms Update

The Parks Director reported the bathrooms will be completed by the end of next week and we have not received the final billing yet. Even though they are not totally complete, they are usable.

f. Vendor Process for 2022

Chair D. Stoneburner opened a discussion of the Commission/City needing better processes and tighter contracts with vendors, with a goal of getting contracts and payments finalized in January to avoid last minute rush and confusion. The City Manager clarified the process was not in error, and the City was informed of a vendor change shortly before Memorial Day and did what was necessary to get the vendor up and running. Commissioner Henderson suggested a damage clause in the contract to protect the City from people backing out and to get legal advice regarding the subject.

g. Park Equipment Status

Donnelly statue has not been secured. The Parks Director confirmed flowers around the statue are not in the budget.

The Commission was informed that the purchase of the new beach rake was approved by the City Council and the old beach rake was taken in trade.

Commission Comments:

a. Frequency of Park/Harbor Commission Meetings

Chair D. Stoneburner suggested the Park/Harbor Commission meet on a quarterly basis

Zoom Meeting

from now on because the Commission is not effectively addressing the needs of the City's parks and harbor and it will enable City employees to work on other things. It was also mentioned that the Commission could have special meetings in between the quarterly meetings, if needed.

The Commission discussed the suggestion.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Henderson to not meet in July 2021 with the next meeting to be the first Thursday in August 2021:

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: S. Stoneburner, Henderson, Gabryszewski, Smith, D. Stoneburner

NAYES :

ABSENT :

ABSTAINED:

Motion Carried, 5-0.

Chair D. Stoneburner asked the Commission to consider someone else as chairperson of the Park/Harbor Commission.

Adjournment. Motion by D. Stoneburner, seconded by S. Stoneburner to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Henderson, Gabryszewski, Smith, S. Stoneburner, D. Stoneburner

NAYES :

ABSENT :

ABSTAINED:

Motion Carried, 5-0.

Adjournment at 7:31 p.m.

ng.

Donald Stoneburner, Chairperson

Nancy Griffin, Deputy Clerk