



Park/Harbor Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda
April 1, 2021
6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – March 4, 2021 (Henderson absent)
4. Public Comment
5. Old Business
 - a. Parks Director Report
 - b. Dredge Fund Update
6. New Business
 - a. Oselka Park
 - b. Beach Areas
 - c. Community Activities – Parks
 - d. Community Garden Spot
 - e. Jetty Responsibility
7. Commission Comments
8. Adjournment

Zoom Meeting

Call to Order at 6:33 pm.

Roll Call. Present in New Buffalo, MI, Berrien County: Chair, Don Stoneburner; Mark Gabryszewski, Susan Stoneburner.

Attended from Naples, FL, Collier County: Tom Smith.

Absent: Linda Henderson

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

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

Approval of Previous Minutes, February 4, 2021. Motion by Smith, seconded by Gabryszewski to approve February 4, 2021 minutes: roll call vote, motion carried, 4-0.

Public Comment.

Debbie Schmidt – Lifeguards

Nora Howe - Lifeguards

Old Business

a. Dredge Fund Update

Chair, D. Stoneburner gave the following update:

- City has waived the association 2019 payments
- Any payments made by associations in 2019 were applied to their 2020 contributions
- A letter was mailed to the associations
- An invoice was mailed to the associations who still owe 2020 contributions

b. Parking Fee Increase Recommendation to City Council

Parks Director gave a review of proposed parking fee changes.

Commission was reminded the City normally transfers money to the Park budget during the year.

Smith also suggested to raise the 3-hour rate to \$7.50, projected revenue with rate increase was not discussed.

Current revenue @ \$12 for the entire season was \$102,372.

Projected revenue with implemented \$15 and \$20 parking fees is \$151,385.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Gabryszewski to suggest the following parking fees

From April 1 - June 30, raise the full-day charge to \$15

From July 1 – August 16, raise the full-day charge to \$20

Zoom Meeting

From August 17 – October 30, raise the full-day charge to \$15
From April 1 – October 31, raise the 3-hour rate to \$7.50
to the City Council; roll call vote, motion carried, 4-0:

New Business

- a. Landscaping Around Donnelly Sculpture
 - Interim City Manager offered Nature's Way Landscaping to send a plan for the site.
 - S. Stoneburner requested the landscaper send a plan to her prior to planting.
- b. Fees – Boat Launch, Beach Parking, Commercial Boat Hauler Agreement

Motion by D. Stoneburner, seconded by S. Stoneburner to suggest the following boat ramp fees
Daily Rates for Michigan Residents with Boats Having Michigan Registrations

- Vessels 27' and under \$10.00
- Vessels 27'1" and over \$30.00

Daily Rates for Non-Michigan Residents/Boats without Michigan Registrations

- Vessels 27' and under \$20.00
- Vessels 27'1" and over \$40.00

Season Passes for Michigan Residents with Boats Having Michigan Registrations

- Vessels 27' and under \$75.00
- Vessels 27'1" and over \$100.00

Season Passes for Non-Michigan Residents/Boats without Michigan Registrations

- Vessels 27' and under \$100.00
- Vessels 27'1" and over \$125.00

to the City Council: roll call vote, motion carried, 4-0.

- c. Waterfront Master Plan Discussion

Chair D. Stoneburner gave an update including his discussion with the Mayor where he confirmed the pedestrian walkway was a separate portion of the plan and how Chair D. Stoneburner would like the walkway to be more of a priority. The current cost of the walkway is approximately \$1M.

- Chair Stoneburner will be looking into other grants that may be available.

Zoom Meeting

Parks Director was not aware of any grants available at the moment and the Interim City Manager suggested a GoFundMe account as a possibility.

Commission Comments:

- The Parks Director confirmed for S. Stoneburner the skates at the ice rink were acquired through donations.
- Parks Director informed the Commission Audrey Tuszynski has been hired to manage the marina with plans to make it more of a concierge service, new logo and a new Facebook page.
- Interim City Manager gave an update on the Dunewalk.

Adjournment. Motion by Smith , seconded by S. Stoneburner to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm: roll call vote, motion carried, 4-0.

Adjournment at 7:25pm.

ng.

Donald Stoneburner, Chairperson

Nancy Griffin, Deputy Clerk



March 29, 2021

To: Parks/Harbor members

As the weather begins to change, spring clean-up has begun.

With warmer weather on its way, we have begun getting things ready for the season. The snow fence has come down at the beach and we have rented a dozer to level out all the sand in preparation for the boardwalk. The beach has already begun seeing an increase in visitors, which is much earlier than in years past. I have spoken to Dustin and he will have Dan Lang running the beach club this summer. A few changes have been made to the operations, such as they will no longer be renting chairs and umbrellas, and they are only utilizing the deck space.

We are still waiting on paperwork from the state in order to get started on the Dune walk. We have been awarded the grant, but they are really behind in issuing the necessary paperwork which allows us to get started with the project. So, for now we sit and wait.

Lifeguard hiring has gone well this season. We have 5 returning guards and 2 new additions to our staff. I would like to get 1 more full time and one part time guard as I am anticipating a very busy beach this summer.

Contractors have been out to look at the marina in order to get their materials ordered to begin the repairs. Hoping to see some real progress in the next week or so. I would like to be ready for Memorial Day weekend, but it's going to be something we have to play by ear. If need be, I will have portable showers and bathrooms available for the boaters. Audrey has been doing a great job getting things organized and cleaned up so we are ready for the season. Look for some new changes around the marina this year.

The boat launch has gotten off to an amazing start to the season. We have been steadily busy every weekend and even a lot of weekdays. A new feature we are working on is making the kiosk available to boaters to pay the daily launch fees. We are hoping this will help with some of the congestion and it will also give me a better way to track activity down there.

The baseball fields have been getting worked on at Oselka park. They have had their initial drag, and I have hired Hostetler to put down new ball mix and bases on field 2. Hopefully, the kids will be able to play, as I hear they are having trouble finding coaches this season.

All in all, I'd say we've been very busy getting prepared for this summer. I'm hoping that everything will continue to go smoothly as the season really ramps up.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen D'Amico
Parks Director

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