

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 11, 2023  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Williamston City Hall Council Chambers by Vice Chair Teri Nelson and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. Roll Call:**

Vice Chair Teri Nelson, Commissioners Terry Hansen, Byron Aldrink, Kent Hall, and Tammy Scott. Absent: John Magee, and Earl Wolf.

Also present: City Manager John Hanifan, Deputy Clerk Barbara Burke, residents Tammy Gilroy, Heather Galecka, Jack Smith, and a Public TV videographer

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by **Hansen**, second by **Hall**, to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**5. Audience Participation:**

Vice Chair Nelson called for public comments at this time and there were none.

**6. Approval of Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2023:**

Motion by **Hansen**, second by **Scott**, to approve the Parks & Recreation Commission regular meeting minutes of September 13, 2023, as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**7. Action Items**

**8. Discussion Items**

**8a. Parks Plan Survey results:**

Manager Hanifan said 218 survey responses were received and reviewed the information. 67% of participants lived in the City. Paved biking/walking pathways, replace/expand the Red Cedar River boardwalk, and a dog park were the top responses as to what participants would like to see implemented. Social media, City website, and a community calendar of events were the top responses as to how participants would like to hear about events, etc.

**8b. Parks Plan Goals and Objectives:**

Manager Hanifan went over some of the goals and objectives in the Parks Plan from the survey.

**8c. Parks Plan process:**

Manager Hanifan said the Parks Commission will adopt a final draft of the Parks Plan at their November meeting and send it to Council. There will be a public hearing and then Council decision. Once it is approved, the Plan can be sent to the State.

**8d. Memorial Park Trail Grant:**

Kent Hall said they are working with Representative Elissa Slotkin's and Senator Debbie Stabenow's offices to get a federal monument in the park. This does not make it a federal park; it will remain a City park. This allows them to put a memorial monument in the park and possibly get funding. PBS is filming him to make people aware of everything going on with the park and Honor for All. His vision for the park is to have healing gardens, a zen garden, etc.

Manager Hanifan said City representatives will make a presentation to the Ingham County Parks Board on November 13 and should hopefully hear before Christmas on if we receive the grant.

**8e. Urban Tree Grant:**

Manager Hanifan said resident Jack Smith gathered information on a DNR tree grant nursery concept and he will work with Mr. Smith on this. The thought is to put a tree nursery at the City's water plant and use the trees throughout the City.

**9. Staff Reports**

**9a. City Manager:**

None.

**10. Audience Participation:**

Tammy Gilroy said she is excited for everything happening with Memorial Park and complimented Kent Hall for his diligence and follow through. She thanked Heather Galecka for all she does in raising funds for City parks. She is excited for the tree nursery.

The idea of a dog park at the end of Railroad Street was brought up.

**11. Member Comments:**

Commissioner Aldrink said he knows the retired Ottawa County parks director and he would reach out to him for ideas as to a dog park.

Commissioner Hansen inquired as to what "adjourn to the call of the chair" meant.

Commissioner Hall complimented the Williamston Kiwanis Club for all they do for fundraising.

Vice Chair Nelson announced the memorial service for Jim Cutshaw, Jill Cutshaw's husband, is November 3 at the Brookshire Inn from 3-8 p.m.

**12. Adjournment:**

Vice Chair Nelson adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:27 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Barbara J. Burke, City Deputy Clerk**

**Date Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_