



City of East Grand Rapids
Regular Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
Agenda

June 12, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

(EGR Community Center – 750 Lakeside Drive)

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment by persons in attendance.
3. Report of Commissioners.
4. Minutes of the regular meeting held May 8, 2017 (enclosed – approval requested).
5. Nomination of Chair and Vice Chair for 2017/18 (action requested)
6. Report of Director

* * *

The City will provide reasonable auxiliary aids for individuals requiring them for effective communication in programs and services of the City. Notice must be made to the City five (5) days prior to the program or service requesting the specific auxiliary aid.

**EAST GRAND RAPIDS
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
EGR COMMUNITY CENTER
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
6:00 PM
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held in the City Commission Chambers in the East Grand Rapids Community Center.

Stacey Wykoski called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

PRESENT: Brad Andrzejewski, Ren Brander, Carol Campbell, Brian Miller, Aaron Smith, Rick Sprague, and Stacey Wykoski
ABSENT: Dirk Buth and Mark Hessler
STAFF: Fred Bunn and Diane Ritzke

Public Comment:

None

Report of Commissioners:

Aaron Smith – None

Rick Sprague – None

Brian Miller – Mentioned there will be an Invasive Species Education/Removal Session at Manhattan Park at 6:00pm on Tuesday, May 9, 2017. Garlic mustard will be the topic, participants will learn how to identify and remove this species.

Brad Andrzejewski – Mentioned the Hurrah event benefitting the EGR School Foundation was a very positive event and the location of the Gaslight Village Parking Ramp was a great venue to use.

Ren Brander - None

Carol Campbell – None

Stacy Wykoski – None

Minutes for the April 10, 2017 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made to approve the minutes for the April 10, 2017 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

MOTION: Carol Campbell

SUPPORT: Aaron Smith

YES: Andrzejewski, Brander, Campbell, Miller, Smith, Sprague and Wykoski (7)

NO: (0)

A Special Event Permit Application was submitted for approval for the Spectrum Health Irish Jig scheduled for March 18, 2018.

A motion was made to approve the Special Event Permit for the Spectrum Health Irish Jig scheduled for March 18, 2018.

MOTION: Brad Andrzejewski

SUPPORT: Brian Miller

YES: Andrzejewski, Brander, Campbell, Miller, Smith, Sprague and Wykoski (7)

NO: (0)

Park Utilization Recommendation: The Parks and Recreation Commission have been asked to make a recommendation to the City Commission regarding park utilization. Background on the park utilization recommendation was briefly discussed earlier this year at a Strategic Planning session where several City Commissioners vocalized the importance of our parks and how they assist in creating a sense of community. They Parks & Recreation Commission were asked to review current park utilization procedures. As part of the overall process two public round table meetings were held on April 10th and April 26th to gather input from the public. Approximately 25 individuals, in total, attended the two meetings. The meetings were an open discussion format providing individuals an opportunity to share their opinion and be heard by their commissioners. Several commissioners took the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback as part of the process.

Chairperson Wykoski introduced the Park Utilization agenda item. With no public members in attendance the floor was closed for public comment. Chairperson Wykoski proceeded to take input as she opened a dialogue with the commission. The Parks and Recreation Commissioners felt some of the biggest concerns were the boat launch congestion, parking and what the City would charge for permits and rentals. Commissioners asked Fred what requests the department has received in the past for park utilization. Fred reported the requests in the past for usage has been for Yoga, Swing Dance, Boot Camp, Mom/Stroller and Sunrise or Sunset yoga classes. Discussion followed. Commissioners felt that having a policy would help regulate the use of John Collins Park that is already occurring.

A motion was made to recommend the following policy be adopted by the City Commission:
Group activity to be allowed in John Collins Park by permit only in specified area with the following restrictions:

1. Specified area between boathouse and restroom building excluding walkways.
2. Tuesday through Thursday only from 7:00 am to 11:00 am, once a week per permit.
3. Maximum of two events in a day and only one event at a time.
4. No audio equipment allowed and vocal level must be no louder than speaking voice.
5. Max participants 15.
6. Resident/nonresident price structure and registration deadlines to be determined by the Parks and Recreation Director.
7. Additional enforcement is requested by Public Safety.
8. Permit users are required to leave the park the way they found it with minimal impact.
9. This policy is a one year trial basis from date of approval.

MOTION: Brian Miller
SUPPORT: Rick Sprague
YES: Campbell, Miller, Smith, Sprague and Wykoski (5)
NO: Brander (1)

Director's Report

Fred Bunn, Director of Parks and Recreation reported on the following:

- Relay for Life is scheduled for May 19 and 20 at the High School Track.
- Rachel Seese, Leisure Supervisor, has returned to work from Maternity Leave.

The meeting was adjourned @ 7:38 pm.

MOTION: Carol Campbell
SUPPORT: Brian Miller
YES: Brander, Campbell, Miller, Sprague, Smith and Wykoski (6)
NO: (0)