

**EAST GRAND RAPIDS
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
EGR COMMUNITY CENTER
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
6:00 PM
Monday, January 23, 2023**

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

Kate Devries called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Present in Person: John Arendshorst, Ryan Burdick, Kate DeVries, Lauren Jacoby, Patrick Parkes, Bill Saxton and Abby Sorota

Absent: Nick Abraham and Larry Fisher

Also Present: Director, Derek Melville, City Manager Shea Charles, and Sara Coffey

Guests: None

Public Comment:

None

Report of Commissioners:

Patrick Parkes – General excitement to work with the Parks and Recreation Commissioners for 2023.

Ryan Burdick- Excited for basketball starting and likes the organization of the program.

Lauren Jacoby- Nothing.

Bill Saxton- Nothing.

Abby Sorota – Applications for the Schoolboard reviewed and have been narrowed down to 4.

John Arendshorst- There are 6 candidates for the open City Commission position.

Kate Devries – Liked the spring postcard that was sent to residents announcing upcoming programs.

Review of minutes:

Minutes of the November 28, 2022, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION to approve: Parkes

SUPPORT: Jacoby

YES: Arendshorst, Burdick, Devries, Jacoby, Parkes, Saxton and Sorota (7)

NO: (0)

MINUTES APPROVED

Special Event Calendar – FYI

Request for Special Event 2023 Rhodes McKee Reeds Lake Triathlon – Melville presented this request for approval. This is the 39th year and there were about 750 participants in 2022.

Burdick: “Northeast side of the lake needs organizers to help residents to travel out during the event, specifically Reeds Lake Blvd and Pioneer Club areas.

MOTION to approve: Saxton

SUPPORT: Parkes

YES: Arendshorst, Burdick, Devries, Jacoby, Parkes, Saxton and Sorota (7)

NO: (0)

SPECIAL EVENT RHODES MCKEE REEDS LAKE TRIATHOON APPROVED

Request for Special Event 2023 Reeds Lake Run– Melville said this is the 44th year for the run and that an estimated 1,000 participants, families and dogs participated in 2022.

Burdick: “Northeast side of the lake needs organizers to help residents to travel out during the event, specifically Reeds Lake Blvd and Pioneer Club areas. Sports are in season and coaches should be alerted.

Parkes: What have changes to the run looked like over the years? Course changes and feedback from the public?

Melville: The current course best opportunity to have utilize volunteers most effectively.

MOTION to approve: Burdick

SUPPORT: Sorota

YES: Arendshorst, Burdick, Devries, Jacoby, Parkes, Saxton and Sorota (7)

NO: (0)

SPECIAL EVENT REEDS LAKE RUN APPROVED

Manhattan Park Multi-Use Trail Conceptual Design:

Melville provided diagrams of proposed designs for the Commission. In working with the West Michigan Mountain Biking Alliance (WMBA) and the findings from Barr Engineering of the ecological assessment

and wetland delineation. Trails can either avoid wetlands, but obtaining a permit from EGLE (formally DEQ) would be needed for areas crossing up to 200 feet into the designated wetlands.

Option A:

Trails (for the most part) avoiding wetlands as much as possible. Connection to the Southwest area would give access to Reeds Lake Trail and can make a shorter route.

Option B:

The Southwest corner doesn't connect as easily to the Reeds Lake Trail and an EGLE permit would be needed. This option also goes through the sledding hill.

Parke: Option A wouldn't need the EGLE grant?

Melville: If we want to improve the connection in this area, we will need a permit.

Parke: Which option is more environmentally favorable?

Melville: Everyone working on these plans wants a win/win and are looking to make the least impact. The trail concept so far would have no negative impact.

Saxton: Would the only advantage to Option B is that it never steps on paved portion?

Melville: With this option you won't be required to go on paved trails. This also gives people the option to "choose your own adventure". It helps prevent people from making their own trails.

Arendshorst: For option B, how long is the permit process? What is the cost?

Melville: Start to finish it typically takes a couple months. The conversation has already begun with EGLE and the cost is approximately \$500 total.

Sorota: Wondered if the trails would be closed loops or open? Is there a benefit to either? Personally, I would prefer a closed loop.

Melville: Open to both options, would like feedback.

Arendshorst: Wondered if there was already an informal trail already there?

Melville: Yes

Devries: Would prefer a closed trail. Is the cost of the EGLE permit per section or the whole area? Would like to see option B because it offers different opportunities.

Melville: The whole area is one permit.

Burdick: What is the total distance of the trails?

Melville: Green route is 1 mile. The blue and red are 2 miles.

Burdick: Has there been any input from the Cross-Country team? Can we please reach out to them?

Melville: We will reach out to them, but the design was made with them in mind.

Parke: Would recommend reaching out to the Cross-Country team. What's next?

Melville: Will take the Parks and Recreation Commission's feedback to the City Commission, they will decide between option A and B. If approved we will go out for bid.

Charles: The next steps are dependent on if the City Commission wants more input or if they are ready to approve.

Parke: What is the difference in cost between options A and B?

Melville: Similar costs.

Devries: Signage will be very important for kids.

Charles: Signs will come soon. Trails need to be established first.

Playground Replacement Process Update:

Little Tykes has won most of the equipment bid, some specialty pieces will come from another vendor.

Site bids were open from November into December. One bid came in on time and was significantly higher than expected. Bids were rejected. The original bid avoided school times and limited the project to a single vendor. We were considered an "in-between" project because we were too small for some contractors, yet too big for others.

The following adjustments to the bid proposals were made in hopes to reach more contractors and interest:

- Open construction window to April to November
- One playground area per site must stay open for use.
- Bids are open for contractors to bid on 1, 2 or 3 sites.
- Open end of work to be done by end of 2024, gives contractors more flexibility.

We started accepting bids last week, 1/23/2023 there was a pre-bid meeting and the contractors that attended and heard positive feedback.

Saxton: Engineer estimate?

Melville: Ballpark, \$2.5 million

Sorota: What does this delay do for the equipment that has been ordered?

Melville: Purchase of playground equipment has moved forward, and we are looking for storage. The cost of storage will be significantly less than possible equipment cost increases.

Charles: 2.6 million with parking lot.

Parke: Adding variables, will you be evaluating bids against each other?

Melville: Sample construction schedule to see phasing schedule and we are open to creative ideas from the contractors. We are looking for the best submission and will be reviewing them with a variety of lenses.

Receipt of Communications – FYI

Report of Director

- Had a fun Sports Night Out.
- An employee from DPW, Cody Browneye was hired as the Grounds Maintenance Assistant.
- Manhattan Park soccer renovation is getting ready to out for bid.
- Reeds Lake Trail Markers will have the sample trail marker soon.
- The dog park is being staked out, due to the good weather we've been having.

Nest Meeting February 27, 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm.