

**EAST GRAND RAPIDS
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
EGR COMMUNITY CENTER
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
6:00 PM
Monday, May 22, 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 Skaggs called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Present in Person: John Arendshorst, Michelle Brown, Larry Fisher, Lauren Jacoby and Kate Skaggs

Absent: Nick Abraham, Patrick Parkes, Bill Saxton and Abby Sorota

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

Guests: Nancy Patterson

Public Comment:

None

Report of Commissioners:

John Arendshorst- Nothing

Larry Fisher- Nothing

Lauren Jacoby- Breton and dog park look fantastic, "well-done Parks and Rec team!"

Michelle Brown- Sweetheart Dance, thanks from my daughter, "Great job Parks and Rec Team"

Kate Skaggs- Thanks Parks and Rec for Peewee Soccer was a great time with dry fields. "They do a great job with our kids."

Review of minutes:

Minutes of the April 24, 2023, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting were presented for approval.

MOTION to approve: Jacoby

SUPPORT: Fisher

YES: Arendshorst, Brown, Fisher, Jacoby, and Skaggs (5)

NO: (0)

MINUTES APPROVED

Special Event Calendar – FYI

Consider request to approve Special Event Permit for Gaslight Village Artisan Market:

Director Melville presented this request stating that Gaslight Village wants to promote themselves as a destination to bring people in. The idea is to showcase local fare and artwork. The requested location is in the city owned parking lot in front of Big Bob's, who is in support of this event.

Jacoby: Would closure only be on Croswell?

Melville: Yes

Skaggs: Just between the city lot and Jersey Junction?

Melville: Yes, this was requested. More staff review would happen before this happens.

Fisher: How does Jersey Junction feel about losing these parking spots?

City Manager Charles: More conversations will need to be had and will need to work through technical aspects. The parking lot closure is in the original thought, with the possibility to add the road.

Fisher: Will it be an issue if the vehicle charging station is unavailable?

Charles: No, there are other ones.

Skaggs: "Food trucks?!? I like it!"

Charles: "This is another subject of conversation".

Jacoby: Questioned if the designated area is enough space for the event. What about crowd control?

Charles: We won't know for sure. Public Safety will be kept in the loop as the event gets closer.

Skaggs: Can people plan for adult beverages?

Charles: Not at this point, but there has been a request for a Social District.

Arendshorst: Is there a way to block the street up to Wealthy St?

Melville: Believes that the intent of the event is to be as least disruptive as possible.

Skaggs: Feels downtown needs this type of event, "I'm really on board".

Motion: Fisher

Second: Arendshorst

YES: Arendshorst, Brown, Fisher, Jacoby, and Skaggs (5)

NO: (0)

SPECIAL EVENT Gaslight Village Artisan Market APPROVED

Manhattan Park Improvement Process:

Director Melville presented information about in-person community engagement sessions that will happen, with the first round being in mid-June 2023. This is specifically for park improvements to be done in 2024. Melville, the design group and others will be available at Manhattan Park Pavilion (weather permitting) to answer questions and to get information about what the community would like to see at the park. The community is encouraged to submit feedback through the survey and come to the in-person community engagement dates.

Next steps:

- Later in the summer there will be a second round of community engagement opportunities and conceptual designs.
- The final designs should be ready in the fall, then ideally will be sent out for bid.
- Initial design and survey are being prepared now.
- A postcard will be sent to all residents with a QR code to the survey.

Fisher: A couple of years ago there wasn't much talk about pickleball, thinking it's going to be a hot item.

Melville: Yes, money was put aside for pickleball courts, they will be in the initial conceptual design.

Arendshorst: Will pickleball be here to stay? Do we really want to designate them only to not use them later?

Melville: 12-ish years ago pickleball was brought to Byron Township and the same in Traverse City. Since then, interest has only grown, children are getting into it too. "I think it's here to stay".

Parks Improvement Project Updates:

Director Melville gave updates on the Manhattan Field -5 "Man-5", construction should start June 15.

Breton-Downs, the seat wall and concrete are poured, limestone path around playground are done. Construction will slow down as Lakeside begins construction. The construction company is making good progress and will be dividing their time between the schools.

The Dog Park is waiting for irrigation to be completed, once complete fencing will be finished and the ground will be seeded. Looking at June 30, 2023, completion but will open once seeding is well established.

Construction at Wealthy School will begin after school is out. There will be quite a bit of construction viewing opportunities. Safety is priority 1!

Receipt of Communications: None

Report of Director:

Director Melville reported:

- 520 people were registered for the Sweetheart Dance.
- Summer Concerts and movies are starting. Prior Noon is playing at John Collins Park this summer, they are opening for Birthday Bash.
- Parks and Recreation were able to add additional classes for the summer because of the BIG wait lists.
- Basketball scrimmage is a big hit.

Next Meeting June 26, 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28pm