

**EAST GRAND RAPIDS
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
EGR COMMUNITY CENTER
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
6:00 PM
MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021**

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

Carol Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Present in Person: Nick Abraham, John Arendshorst, Carol Campbell, Kate DeVries, Larry Fisher, Liz Mitchell, Adam Rogalski and Aaron Smith

Absent: Abby Sorota

Also Present: Shannyn Fasbender, Diane Ritzke and City Manager, Shea Charles

Public Comment:

None

Report of Commissioners:

Nick Abraham – None

Liz Mitchell – None

John Arendshorst – None

Aaron Smith – Wanted to recognize the East Grand Rapids Boys and Girls High School Lacrosse teams – both teams won State Titles this year.

Adam Rogalski – Wanted to share his appreciation to his colleagues on this Commission, staff, and city leadership as his term ends at the end of the month. He has applied for another term on this Commission but has not been notified if he will be reappointed. To Diane, Shannyn and Mr. Charles, thank you for continued leadership for the Parks and Recreation Department and the City itself. He said it has been a pleasure to serve on this Commission along with his colleagues and appreciated the opportunity to serve the community in a small way.

Carol Campbell on behalf of the Commission thanked Adam for serving on this Commission, for his insightful comments and perspective.

Larry Fisher – Commented the mural painted on the wall across from the Public Safety building is complete. He said the students who worked on the project did a great job.

Kate DeVries – Commented it was great to attend the Community Engagement session on June 10th regarding the Parks Improvement Millage. Shea did a great job with the presentation; it was good to hear all the comments from community members, she is looking forward to more discussion. Kate also mentioned her 8-year-old daughter pointed out to her that East Grand Rapids does not have great recycling bins in our parks. Kate said she has asked City Manager Charles to check to see if the City has applied for an EGLE grant through the State of Michigan for recycling bins in our parks.

Carol Campbell appreciates that Kate brought up the recycling idea again as she has always been interested in getting more recycling bins in the parks.

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Minutes for the May 10, 2021, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made to approve the minutes for the May 10, 2021, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

MOTION: Aaron Smith

SUPPORT: John Arendshorst

YES: Abraham, Arendshorst, Campbell, DeVries, Fisher, Mitchell, Rogalski, Smith, (8)

NO: (0)

The Special Event Calendar was reviewed.

A request was made to approve the Special Event Permit for the:

BIGGBY B the One Walk/Run, October 10, 2021

Interim Director, Shannyn Fasbender reviewed the application with the Commission. This is a new event and will use the same course as this year's Reeds Lake Run course and the Trailblazer course.

A motion was made to approve the Special Event Permit application for the BIGGBY B the One Walk/Run to be held October 10, 2021.

MOTION: Nick Abraham

SUPPORT: Larry Fisher

YES: Abraham, Arendshorst, Campbell, DeVries, Fisher, Mitchell, Rogalski, Smith, (8)

NO: (0)

Parks Improvement Debt Millage Proposal:

City Manager Charles reviewed the presentation he did at the June 10, 2021, Community Engagement Session. There are two more Community Engagement Sessions scheduled, one on Wednesday, June 23rd from 7-8pm in the City Commission Chambers and another one on Wednesday, June 30th from 12-1pm virtually only via Zoom.

Discussion followed:

Aaron Smith – Inquired if there would be other millage requests on the ballot? City Manager Charles responded the schools might be putting a request on the ballot to renew their Recreation Millage.

Carol Campbell – Wanted clarification that each project would be vetted before any final decisions are made. The City Manager responded yes; all projects will be vetted before final approval on each project.

Nick Abraham – Inquired under the scenario that all these projects are completed what does the next Master Plan look like? Would a new list of projects be populated? The City Manager responded when a new Master Plan is done the city will go thru the same process for creating a new master plan as it has in the past as it is required by law and a new list could be created at that time.

Aaron Smith – Inquired if there was any thought of including operational costs similar to what the City of Grand Rapids has done? The City Manager responded from an operational standpoint both the City and Schools are comfortable with where we are at funding wise for Joint Facilities.

Adam Rogalski - Inquired if the ballot language was set? It has not been set as of this point; it will probably be approved by the City Commission at the July 6th meeting.

Liz Mitchell – Inquired what the general feedback was from the June 10th meeting? The City Manager responded it was mixed, some people were not in favor of the ask, some people did not like how it was structured, some people had concerns about the timing and the amount of the ask, and some people expressed support for the different projects and just wanted more information.

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Adam Rogalski – Commented the Manhattan Park piece of the proposed millage request and the trail project would add quite a bit of change to that area of the city. Even though he supports the new trails and the proposed park improvements he wanted to acknowledge this is a big change for that area of the City.

Nick Abraham – Inquired if there would be a traffic pattern study done in regard to adding a splash pad to Manhattan Park? City Manager Charles responded this has not been decided yet.

Report of Interim Director

Interim Director Shannyn Fasbender reported on the following:

- **Concerts in the Park:** The first Concert in the Park will be held tonight in Collins Park, the other concert dates are June 21, June 28, July 12, July 19, and July 26. All concerts start at 7pm.
- **Movies in the Park:** The first Movie in the Park will be held July 9th. Other movie nights are July 16, August 20, and August 27. All movies start at sunset.
- **Reeds Lake Run:** The Reeds Lake Run will be held June 26th. This year the events will be a 5K Run/Walk, 5K Doggie Dash and new this year a 1-mile Family Fun Run. The course has been changed due to construction and the course will be similar to the Trailblazer course.
- **July 4th Celebration:** The July 4th Celebration will be held on Sunday, July 4th with a traveling parade similar to the parade held by the Department of Public Works earlier this year. Fireworks will be held at dusk; donations are still being accepted for fireworks.
- **Lifeguards:** We are still in need of Lifeguards this summer – if anyone knows of someone who might be interested have them contact us.

Carol Campbell commented this will be her last meeting as her term will end at the end of this month. She started out volunteering in East Grand Rapids as a young professional working downtown with the Jaycees, then as a young married mother she was busy with the Jr. League, then busy with the PTA with EGR Schools, then onto the Community Foundation and finally with the Parks and Recreation Commission. She has enjoyed every minute of it. Thank You.

City Manager Charles announced the city has extended an offer of employment for a new Parks and Recreation Director. Derek Melville who currently is the Parks and Recreation Superintendent for the City of Traverse City will be starting after July 5, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44pm.