

**EAST GRAND RAPIDS
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
EGR COMMUNITY CENTER
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
6:00 PM
MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021**

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

Aaron Smith called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Present in Person: Nick Abraham, Ryan Burdick, Larry Fisher, Liz Mitchell, Patrick Parkes, and Aaron Smith

Absent: John Arendshorst, Kate DeVries, and Abby Sorota

Also Present: Derek Melville, Shannyn Fasbender, Diane Ritzke, City Manager, Shea Charles, and Deputy City Manager, Doug LaFave

Public Comment:
None

Report of Commissioners:

Patrick Parkes – Patrick introduced himself as one of the new Commissioners appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission. He moved to East Grand Rapids in January 2021; he is familiar with the area as he has been a substitute teacher in East Grand Rapids in the past. He is excited with the opportunity to serve on this Commission.

Liz Mitchell – Commented she has heard from some community members they would like to see the Parks and Recreation Department offer more full day camps for youth in the future. This would be more appealing to working parents.

Ryan Burdick – Ryan introduced himself as one of the new Commissioners appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission. He has lived in East Grand Rapids for about four years, is a stay at home dad and has coached for various Parks and Recreation Department teams.

Aaron Smith – Welcomed Derek Melville as the new Parks and Recreation Director as well as Ryan and Patrick to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Nick Abraham – Attended the 4th of July Parade and was thankful the city was able to put together some festivities for the day as he enjoyed it. Also welcomed the new director and commissioners.

Larry Fisher – Commented he was involved with both the Reeds Lake Run and Reeds Lake Trailblazer run. Both events were very successful even though smaller than previous years. Welcomed the new director and commissioners.

Minutes for the June 14, 2021, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made to approve the minutes for the June 14, 2021, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

MOTION: Larry Fisher

SUPPORT: Nick Abraham

YES: Abraham, Burdick, Fisher, Mitchell, Parkes, Smith, (6)

NO: (0)

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Election of Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2021/22

A motion was made to nominate Aaron Smith as the Chairperson and Nick Abraham as the Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission for FY 2021/22.

MOTION: Larry Fisher

SUPPORT: Liz Mitchell

YES: Abraham, Burdick, Fisher, Mitchell, Parkes, and Smith (6)

NO: (0)

The Special Event Calendar was reviewed.

The 2021/2022 Parks and Recreation Commission Schedule was reviewed.

City Manager Charles introduced and welcomed Derek Melville as the new Parks and Recreation Director.

City Manager Charles reported on the following:

- The City Commission at the July 6, 2021, meeting approved the resolution authorizing the ballot proposal for Park Improvement Bonds for the November 4, 2021, ballot. It is a request for up to 7 million dollars in borrowing. Additional informational sessions will be held later this summer and fall for the community.
- July 4th – kudos to City Staff on July 4th activities. Thanks to Karen Brower, City Clerk, who is the liaison to the Community Foundation she did an incredible job with the Trailblazer Run.

Aaron Smith inquired if there was a Friends Group in connection with the Park Improvement Millage. City Manager Charles responded the city cannot take an active role in advocating one way or another on the ballot proposal, the city can only provide information. He also responded he has heard there is a group advocating this ballot item through social media so anyone interested in that can do an online search for the group.

Report of Director

Director Derek Melville introduced himself. He is coming from Traverse City where he was the Parks and Recreation Superintendent for five years. He and his wife are both from the Byron Center area and are looking forward to coming home. He has always enjoyed the East Grand Rapids area and is very excited to be here. Today was his first full day and he plans on attending the concert tonight featuring the band Reeds and Steel.

Report of Interim Director

Shannyn Fasbender reports on the following:

- **Concerts in the Park:** There is a Concert in the Park featuring the band Reeds and Steel tonight at 7pm.
- **Movies in the Park:** The second Movie in the Park will be held July 16th at dusk. The movie is Sing.
- **Reeds Lake Run:** The Reeds Lake Run was held June 26th. Three races were held this year, 5k Run, 5k Doggie Dash and a 1 Mile Family Fun Run. We had 529 total registered runners and even though it was a rainy day, participants seemed to enjoy the race.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14pm.