

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Work Session Held October 24, 2023

Mayor Favale called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at the East Grand Rapids Community Center and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Commissioners Arendshorst, Burdick, Hamrick, Schwartz, Schulz, Wessely and Mayor Favale.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Charles, Deputy City Manager LaFave; City Attorney Huff; Parks & Recreation Director Melville; City Clerk Parmenter. Parks & Recreation members Bill Saxton, Abby Sorta, Patrick Parks, Larry Fisher and Kate Skaggs.

2023-228. The agenda was approved as submitted.

2023-229. Public Comment.

Chris Meyer, 350 Manhattan Rd, said they can hear pickleball being played inside their house which violates the noise ordinance. He wants pickleball prohibited. Would also like a noise study to see if it would violate the noise ordinance if the courts are moved.

Jennifer Clary, 337 Manhattan Rd, would like to know the environmental plans for woods, if new trees would be planted, how habitat would be replaced and if a new bathroom facility was necessary and if could be moved.

Sara Buck, 308 Manhattan Rd, stated that a lot of people don't keep their dogs on a leash and noted that speeding on Manhattan was a problem. She is thankful for everything that is happening in the park and said that the playground needed updating and there was no need to tear down structures but renovate them instead.

John Chronowski, 775 Bagley, noted that he was a member of a pickleball club and EGR has no courts designated for pickleball. He said there could be sound barriers used for noise control and noted that a court 400 feet away gives off decibels in the 50's. There could also be an option for limiting the hours of use. He supports the new courts and combo courts.

2023-230. Consider the conceptual plans and cost estimates for the renovation of Manhattan Park and provide feedback to staff regarding selection of the preferred design to be use for project bidding and construction.

Parks and Recreation Director Melville gave a power point presentation highlighting the three conceptual plans for the park.

Kate Skaggs stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission had a robust conversation at their meeting. She said that the second restroom is highly desired, but the renderings are not much of a change from what the park is now and suggested that the milage did not have a dollar amount attached. She also agrees that a sound study would be supported.

Bill Saxton said that it was eye opening what \$2 million can get you.

Commissioner Schulz asked if a second bathroom was needed. Bill Saxton noted that the current one is not easily accessible.

Larry Fisher noted that the current restroom is not desirable but rehab the restroom and pavilion.

Commissioner Schwartz asked if the restroom site was chosen due to current utility lines. Deputy City Manager La Fave noted the locations of the current lines.

Commissioner Burdick was initially against a second restroom but now sees how inaccessible the current one is.

Commissioner Wessely stated the spend on the bathroom is a smart one and separating the bathroom from the pavilion makes sense.

Commissioner Schwartz noted that Manhattan Park is the only playground that kids under the age of five can access during the day and have a bathroom.

Commissioner Arendshorst says that the bathroom is a good idea and would like to explore combining option B & C.

Trevor Bosworth, Virdis, noted the shelter does seem sound and could be renovated with a new roof, sandblasting and paint.

Commissioner Hamrick is in agreement with separating the restroom from the pavilion.

Commissioner Schwartz asked about the pavilion sizes. Trevor Bosworth said that the new would be the same size as the current one at about 1900 sq. feet. He noted that the restroom and maintenance doors would face the parking lot and the pavilion would face the playground. They prefer restrooms closer to parking and public spaces for safety.

City Manager Charles went over the budgeted numbers for parks in relation to the bond and noted that there are other funding opportunities available.

Commissioner Schulz asked if we have stayed within our contingencies with the school playgrounds. Parks & Recreation Director Melville said that we have used some contingency but are still within the limits.

Commissioner Burdick asked if we have a target for the number of pickleball courts and asked if we have previously received any noise complaints regarding pickleball. Parks & Recreation Director Melville stated that there is not a set number of courts in mind but

noted that some of the courts are shared with tennis. He is not aware of any previous noise complaints.

Commissioner Wessely thinks acoustic fences are a good solution to the noise and advocates for pickleball but wondered about moving them to Waterfront Park.

City Manager Charles noted that sound mitigation has come a long way for pickleball.

Commissioner Hamrick wonders if we should consider noise testing.

Commissioner Burdick said that it is nice to have a multigenerational park.

Mayor Favale noted that teens often get left out.

Kate Skaggs questioned the splash pad being removed from Manhattan Park and is concerned about Waterfront Park with the kids crossing the road, trail and the water. She feels Manhattan is safer and that there is potential to dilute City resources.

Commissioner Schwartz said that the splash pad is not like going to Michigan Adventure for the day and loves the idea of it being in Waterfront Park.

Commissioner Hamrick noted that she spoke to a resident concerned about safety.

City Manager Charles noted the earliest Waterfront Park could be 2025.

Mayor Favale thinks that we should continue the conversation about Waterfront Park and doesn't want things watered down by trying to do too much.

Commissioner Hamrick said that we could incorporate the splash pad at Manhattan Park.

City Manager Charles said that we may be looking at coming together for a future meeting. The takeaways from the work session were adding the additional bathroom, pickleball acoustic issues and Waterfront Park. He also noted that the City is not prepared to respond to the noise ordinance at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until November 6, 2023.

Lori A Parmenter, City Clerk