



## **PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**March 1, 2023**

### **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

### **Roll Call**

**Present:** Hannah Mico, Kelli Jo Peltier, Carl Johnson, Max Gibbs, Sam Moore, Megan Catcho, Javier Cervantes, Stacy Bare

**Others:** David Marquardt (Grand Rapids Parks Department), Paul, Jim (guests)

### **Approval of Agenda**

Kelli Jo suggested to amend the agenda and move the budget discussion to April. Sam would like to see the City use ARPA funds for more parks and trails. The board supports this. Motion made by Sam Moore, supported by Kelli Jo Peltier, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Sam Moore, supported by Megan Catcho, to approve the December 7, 2022 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

### **Comments from Public**

None.

### **Chair/Vice chair election**

Sam nominated Hannah for chair. Hannah accepted the nomination. Motion made by Sam Moore, supported by Kelli Jo to elect Hannah Mico as chair. Motion carried.

Sam nominated Max Gibbs for vice chair. Max accepted the nomination. Motion made by Sam Moore, supported by Hannah Mico to elect Max Gibbs as vice chair. Motion carried.

### **Agenda Item(s)**

#### **Sullivan Field fundraising and naming rights:**

Paul and Jim (Fans of Valley Field) gave a presentation on the fundraising efforts by Fans of Valley Field for the Sullivan Field project. Jim explained the strategy, thanked the board and voters for the commitment of \$1.1 million and discussed the marketing approach to fundraising.

Carl asked about the turf and Paul stated the design team will start with the infield. Megan recommends chillers for the ice rink. The ice rink is still in discussion and would be part of a later phase of work. Stacy suggested Grand Valley State University and Grand Rapids Public Schools foundations to support the capital campaign. Fans of Valley Field stated that Union High School is involved in the process.

Sam Moore supports the marketing approach and naming rights campaign as it seems to meet the intent of the parks naming policy. Max asked about the drug and alcohol companies. Sam and Javier proposed allowing local businesses that include alcohol, cannabis, and breweries.

Megan stated Downtown Grand Rapids Inc. has similar concerns about alcohol and cannabis and ultimately it is concluded that is it okay to support publicly. Stacy stated that alcohol and cannabis support for a ballpark may be more appropriate than in other general park spaces and amenities like play spaces. Carl stated there is no difference between a ballpark and other park spaces and that parents may have the same negative perspective. Hannah would rather see local growers and brewery names rather than large family foundation names on public amenities. Max asked whether taxes the City receives from the cannabis industry could be put towards the project. Carl stated more discussion about cannabis should be held.

Stacy suggested the marketing brochure make it more clear that the park is and will continue to be a public park and maintained as such.

Motion made by Megan Catcho, supported by Kelli Jo Peltier, to approve the marketing campaign approach. Motion carried.

Motion made by Kelli Jo Peltier, supported by Stacy Bare, to approve naming rights, including for alcohol companies, and more discussion at a future meeting regarding the cannabis industry. Motion carried.

**Budget and Parks Department strategic priorities:**

Moved to April meeting.

**Future agenda items**

- Park signage
- Canal Park and Greenway updates

**Comments from the board**

Sam stated that there is \$38 million today from \$55 million assigned to projects along the Grand River Greenway and mentioned projects recommended by the greenway committee.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.