



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

**February 7, 2024**

### **Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

### **Roll Call**

**Present:** Max Gibbs, Carl Johnson, Megan Catcho, Kelli Jo Peltier, Marta Johnson

**Others:** David Marquardt, Michelle Slykhouse, Laura Cleypool, Victoria Keenan, Karie Enriquez, Dervin Figuereo (Grand Rapids Parks Department)

### **Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by Megan Catcho, supported by Kelli Jo Peltier, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Megan Catcho, supported by Kelli Jo Peltier, to approve the November 1, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

### **Comments from Public**

None.

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

#### **Chair & Vice Chair election**

Hannah was nominated for chair. No other nominations. Max was nominated for vice chair. No other nominations.

Motion made by Kelli Jo Peltier, supported by Megan Catcho, to elect Hannah Mico as chair and Max Gibbs as vice chair. Motion carried.

#### **Plaza Roosevelt park naming process**

Karie explained that per the park naming policy the Parks and Recreation advisory board will approve the name that goes to City Commission. The intent of this presentation is to review the process of how the final suggested names will come about.

Anyone in the community can suggest a name, there will be brainstorming events also. Submissions will be reviewed to make sure they all align with the City Commission Policy for park naming.

Parks Department will prepare a document with all suggestions and explain why suggestions may or may not be moving forward through the process. Marta stated the process seems inclusive.

#### **Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) grant for Bike Park**

Karie explained where the park is located and that the Parks Department has been working with the West Michigan Mountain Biking Association for the past few years on improvements and funding

opportunities. Grant improvements will include an entrance drive, parking lot, sidewalk access and concrete pad with picnic shelter. Total project cost is about \$525,000 and the grant will be for \$350,000. A public hearing is coming up on February 20 and City Commission will consider approval of the application in March.

Marta asked whether the park is accessible by bus. Karie stated there is a stop on Burton and that the Parks Department is working with Mobile GR to make sure parks are included in the bike action plan.

Motion made by Megan Catcho, supported by Carl Johnson, to approve the grant application. Motion carried.

### **Budget**

Laura stated the budget is submitted and in a couple weeks the review with City Manager will take place. There is one new full-time position request, a Groundskeeper for cemeteries.

Max asked about senior programs on the west side of the city. Laura stated right now it is facility-driven and the goal is to have one in each ward.

Laura stated that sometime in the next 7-10 years the amount of revenue from the parks millage will not be enough to cover expenses. Marta asked whether there is a way to communicate this news to the public – there may be a gap in understanding what it takes to invest in public goods.

An MDNR grant was received to develop a forestry master plan. Money is built into the budget for some catch-up work and to develop the plan for forestry.

### **Future agenda items**

- Skate parks
- Natural area plans for parks

### **Comments from the board**

None.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.