



**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

November 1, 2023

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Max Gibbs, Kelli Jo Peltier, Stacy Bare, Megan Catcho, Sam Moore

Others: David Marquardt, Michelle Slykhouse, Laura Cleypool (Grand Rapids Parks Department), Shea Abbg, Brian Frawley (Great Lakes Disc)

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Kelli Jo Peltier, supported by Megan Catcho, to approve the September 6, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Comments from Public

None.

Agenda Item(s)

Disc Golf

Shea Abbg, owner of Great Lakes Disc, and Brian Frawley stated they would like to have the River City Open held at Riverside Park. The River City Open is the largest disc golf event. Highland and Riverside parks both have disc golf courses that are not being played a lot. The disc golf course at Garfield Park was renovated in 2017/2018 and became the most played course in Michigan in 2019, 2021 and 2022.

Shea stated that Highland Park needs a new layout and infrastructure. Riverside Park renovations started in 2017 and were never completed. Brian stated there are events that could be held in Grand Rapids after renovations are done to the disc golf courses at these parks.

Stacy asked what is needed at this point. Shea stated communication from the Parks Department on what could be done to make improvements at these parks. Great Lakes Disc could raise funds and work on logistics to sell the package to event organizers.

David asked whether contact had been made with West Michigan Sports. Shea stated that West Michigan Sports is working with a different disc golf provider already. Max asked whether Experience GR has been involved as that organization would have the answers to what is needed for logistics. Shea stated yes.

The venue is the largest piece of the puzzle currently. Shea stated Riverside Park is the best course for spectators. Next steps is a meeting with the Parks Department. Shea stated the approximate cost is \$20-\$30k for the renovations.

Sam asked how Grand Rapids could get into top 10 rated courses and what the radius is. Shea stated it is Grand Rapids and Kent County so any new equipment installed at a Kent County Park would increase the rating.

2024 meeting schedule

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

Budget and department operating plan

Laura stated the budget process will begin in December. A City Commission workshop was held yesterday – safety and housing were priorities. In December & January the budget will be built based on the department strategic plan. In January & February the Budget Office will review and in February & March the City Manager will review.

David stated the Parks Department priorities have not changed, however some of the strategies have. Each objective has 3-7 strategies. Sam asked if public safety is being prioritized in park spaces. Laura stated gates at parking lots, security cameras, and park ambassadors have been added in the past few years. Sam asked about grants that are not being received. David stated the spark grants have not been awarded to the City, however the regular cycle Trust Fund grants have been the past few years.

The Board has no additional comments on the plan.

Update on natural area plans for parks

Stacy stated as part of the forest grant there will be collaboration with Aquinas College, Calvin University, and Grand Valley State University to start a plan.

Future agenda items

- Skate parks
- Natural area plans for parks
- Budget
- Chair/vice chair election

Comments from the board

None.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.