



**Proceedings of the Parks and Recreation Committee
Thursday, September 4, 2014, 5:30 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee was held on Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 5:30 P.M. in the Conference Room #1, Second Floor, Memorial Building, Ironwood, Michigan.

1. Call to Order:

Chair Davey called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Recording of the Roll:

MEMBER	PRESENT		EXCUSED	NOT EXCUSED
	YES	NO		
Anderson, Paul	X			
Burchell, Annette		X		X
Davey, Sam – Chair	X			
Kangas, Tom	X			
Rick Semo, ex-officio, non-voting	X			
True, Marion	X			
Vuorenmaa, Bruce		X		X
Wamhoff, Colleen		X	X	
	4	Quorum		

Also present, Community Development Director Michael J.D. Brown.

3. Approval of the Minutes:

Motion by Kangas to approve the July 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes. **Second** by Anderson. **Motion carried 4 to 0.**

4. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion by True to accept the Agenda. **Second** by Anderson. **Motion carried 4 to 0.**

5. Citizens wishing to address the Committee on Items on the agenda (Three-Minute Limit):

None

6. Citizens wishing to address the Committee on items not on the Agenda (Three-minute limit):

None

7. Park Financials – none to present.

8. Items for discussion and consideration:

- a. Longyear Park Playground Specifications (DNR Grant): Director Brown updated the committee on the park. He had met with the same company that did the Norrie Park playground. They had discussed handicapped accessible equipment. The project is \$60,000 and they have about \$50,000 for the project. There will also be some sidewalk and curb work for handicapped accessibility along with an enclosure and concrete pad around the outhouse. Most of the money is a donation from the disbanded Jaycees Club. The work that is contracted out is the playground equipment, path extension and curb. The other work can be done by city labor. Director Brown stated that the City Commission just approved the grant agreement then they will do the bidding process. The equipment will be all inclusive and the age range will be from 0-12. True asked if where the existing playground equipment is going. Director Brown indicated that it remain and the new equipment will just add to the park. Since the money was donated for this cause, the money must be spent in Longyear Park. Semo stated that the grounds are worn under the playground equipment. The committee suggested that the City crew be notified to help clean up and level worn areas under the swings and slides. Much discussion about the bid process followed.
- b. Mt. Zion: Chair Davey updated the committee on the progress. He has contact Beaver Tree Service and needs to set up a date to meet. He also has a possible source of funding. Chair Davey is hoping to get the College and the Township on board with the project. Director Brown met with James Lorensen at GCC about the project. Lorensen is excited about the project and stated that GCC might be a potential partner. True suggested that a partnership with the Township and GCC, working together as a team. Kangas suggested that the committee look into Pure Michigan signs for Mt. Zion. Director Brown suggest that the committee waits to jump ahead without a way finding plan in place. True asked what kind of support the Township is giving. True suggested that the committee provide a way that the Township would benefit from a partnership. He also stated that it is a positive thing for the entire community. Semo asked if we need permission from anyone to move ahead. Director Brown stated that this is a maintenance issue and therefore doesn't need approval from the commission. Kangas brought to the committee's attention that gravel is needed on top of the hill. Semo suggested that they coordinate with Neil to fill the needed area with gravel.
- c. Art Park: Director Brown updated the committee on the proposed art park that was developed by a small group from the DAP. This same plan was presented to the DIDA. The proposal is a 5 foot sidewalk, 20 foot concrete pad for art displays and performances, fruit trees as an edible garden concept, multiple concrete pads for art, a wall in the back to display art, parking in the back, a chalk board, a mural similar to the miners mural, electrical needs, lighting, benches and picnic tables. He then talked about MEDC Kickstarter grant which is a 50/50 grant. The other funding option is through MCACA grant. Director Brown suggested that they utilize both grants for this project. The hope is to do the park for free, without the City contributing. The committee agreed that this is a great idea.

9. Project Updates:

- a. Comprehensive/Park and Recreation Plan Implementation Status: Director Brown updated the committee on the progress of the plan. He wants to discuss the trail plan at the next meeting. Kangas has talked with HOPE animal shelter at obtaining a trail from the Governors Trail to the Miners Park. Semo brought up a trail summit concept and suggested that this could be a component of the plan. Director Brown is working with the motorized group.
 - i. Master Plan for the Miners Park. The plan is currently underway.
 - ii. Incorporate art in the city wide arts planning. Director Brown has met with a few members from the DAP to create an art plan.
 - iii. The Depot park plan. They have applied for a playground through a DNR Trust Fund grant.


10. Other Business:

- a. Letter submitted about the Curry Park. Chair Davey agreed with the suggestions submitted. Director Brown indicated that when the City takes in revenue, the money goes into the General Fund. He would like to see that go into a separate fund designated for a parks project fund. Semo stated that the City hasn't placed much money into parks, but is important to do so.
- b. Anderson brought up parks north of the highway. Kangas stated that he talked with Little Bear Construction about the property east of his property. Chair Davey suggested that in order to have better coverage on the north side, two parks are needed. Director Brown then suggested that the committee mark this down as an important priority, if they desire. Chair Davey mentioned that he has been researching natural playgrounds at a lower cost, which should be considered for the north side parks.

11. Next Meeting: October 6, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment: **Motion** by True to adjourn the meeting. **Second** by Anderson. **Motion Carried 4 to 0.** Adjournment at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Sam Davey, Chair



Tim Erickson, Community Development Assistant