

## **ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 13, 2018**

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, February 13, 2018. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Escanaba City Hall, Escanaba, MI 49829.

**BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Karen Moore, Vice Chairperson Joe Kaplan, Boardmembers Valarie Norman, Barb Chenier and Patty Woerpel

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kim Peterson, Recreation Director; Brooks Bougie, Recreation Assistant; Ralph Blasier, City Council Liaison; Craig Woerpel, W.D.B.C. Radio, Savior Lutheran Church Representative and Jane Heinz

**BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT:** None

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

### **APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 9, 2018**

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Joe Kaplan, seconded by Boardmember Barb Chenier, to approve the meeting minutes of January 9, 2018. Motion was approved unanimously.

### **APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

None.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Dog Park Location**

Recreation Director Peterson stated a site selection needs to take place so the project can move forward with cost estimates and securing funding. She reviewed previous information that was brought before the board such as submitting plans to the FAA if a gazebo/covered area is desired. There is a 45 day review period for any permits with the FAA. There is interest in a corporate sponsor and details need to be reviewed and along with cost estimates. There are currently two options under consideration near the airport and a site has to be recommended and/or approved to move forward. Radio, tv and the Daily Press has picked up on the dog park and volunteers are coming forward and a list is being created.

Vice Chairperson Joe Kaplan inquired to property at the U.P. State Fairgrounds for a potential dog park. Recreation Director Peterson stated that she was in contact with the Chamber of Commerce, although they currently allow dogs to run in the area, they don't want to promote such at this property.

**A motion was made by Boardmember Valarie Norman, seconded by Vice Chairperson Joe Kaplan, to consider the closest parcel to the highway which consists of 3.3 acres. The Board further gave direction to Recreation Director Peterson to obtain quotes for 5' and 6' fencing with double gate enclosures for small and large dogs. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Cost estimates will also be obtained for a water source, benches, garbage receptacles, dog bag dispensers, etc. Information will be reported back. Recreation Director Peterson stated no plans will be implemented without first consulting the public for their input on signage and layout.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

### **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant**

Recreation Director Peterson stated that the Recreation Advisory Board needs to recommend to the City Council submission of the MNRTF Grant. The grant will be at the maximum allowed amount of \$300,000 for the City of Escanaba North Side Non-Motorized Pathway System. Submission deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Chairperson Karen Moore opened the Public Hearing and asked for public comment. Hearing none, the Public Hearing was closed.

**A motion was made by Boardmember Barb Chenier, seconded by Boardmember Patty Woerpel to recommend to the City Council submission of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant. Motion was approved unanimously.**

### **Michigan Department of Transportation – Transportation Alternatives Program (MDOT-TAP Grant)**

Recreation Director Peterson stated the Recreation Advisory Board needs to recommend to the City Council submission of a MDOT-TAP Grant. The grant applications are done four times a year with no set amount for funding. This grant is being sought for the City of Escanaba North Side Non-Motorized Pathway System.

Chairperson Karen Moore inquired whether MDOT could be specific on this grant to what they would fund. Recreation Director Peterson responded yes and the cost estimates are broken into categories in case certain sections are funded and others are not.

Chairperson Karen Moore opened the Public Hearing and asked for public comment. Hearing none, the Public Hearing was closed.

**A motion was made by Boardmember Barb Chenier, seconded by Vice Chairperson Joe Kaplan, to recommend to the City Council submission of**

**Michigan Department of Transportation – Transportation Alternatives Program (MDOT-TAP) Grant. Motion was approved unanimously.**

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Passport Grant (MDNR RP)**

Recreation Director Peterson stated the Recreation Advisory Board needs to recommend to the City Council submission of a MDNR – RP Grant. The grant request will be for \$100,000 for removal and development/construction of four tennis courts within Ludington Park. She further stated in 2014-2015 a Recreation Passport Grant was received for resurfacing the Ludington Park Tennis Courts. Deadline for the grant is March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Upgrading the lighting was discussed.

Boardmember Norman inquired to what else could be added to the grant other than the courts. Recreation Director Peterson will review further.

Chairperson Karen Moore opened the Public Hearing and asked for public comment. Hearing none, the Public Hearing was closed.

**A motion was made by Boardmember Patty Woerpel, seconded by Boardmember Valarie Norman, to recommend to the City Council submission of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Passport Grant in the amount of \$100,000. Motion was approved unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Budget Review**

Recreation Director Peterson reviewed her budget message for the upcoming budget procedures. She is seeking a raise for lifeguards as they have to receive special certifications from the Red Cross in order to their jobs. Construction of four new Ludington Park Tennis Courts were incorporated into the budget, as well as funds to resurface coat Royce Tennis Courts. Also placed in budget is the metal posts that remain from an old diving platform from about 35 years ago and must be removed as they pose a safety hazard. The Civic Center basement floods every spring and this past year was excessively worse than ever and needs to be looked at so it can be remedied. The exterior shower at the beach house hasn't worked in two years and needs to be repaired and/or replaced. Upgrades will take place again this year to the West Side Ski Park area and funds are being included for such work. The wading pool shelter house metal doors are in great need of replacement and this is also being proposed in the upcoming budget. The Civic Center was given a generator from military surplus that Public Safety secured and will cost approximately \$5,500 to install. The generator would be on a trailer and could be utilized within other departments as well. Winter seasonals remain to be looked at for flooding ice rinks.

**Project Updates:**

**Civic Center Usage Update/Program and Activity Update**

Recreation Director Peterson provided an update for the month of January for Civic Center activities. She stated they will continue to promote the West Side Ski Park area.

**Various**

The Recreation Department and Big Brothers/Big Sisters are working jointly on a golf ball drop fundraiser. 600 golf ball tickets will be sold for \$25 each. First place \$3,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> is \$1,000, 3<sup>rd</sup> is \$500, 4<sup>th</sup> is \$250 and farthest from hole is \$250. There will also be ten special prizes valued at \$250 each from various businesses in the area as a donation. The raffle will be held on August 4<sup>th</sup> during Rock the Dock celebration at the Municipal Dock.

Vice Chairperson Joe Kaplan will be submitting a \$2,000 tree grant.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

N/A

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Joe Kaplan, seconded by Boardmember Patty Woerpel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Peterson  
Recreation Director

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Karen Moore, Chairperson

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Date