

**ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 13, 2018**

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, March 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, City Volunteer Mike Segorski and Water/Wastewater Superintendent Jeff Lampi

**BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2018**

A motion was made by Boardmember Barb Chenier, seconded by Boardmember Valarie Norman, to approve the meeting minutes of February 13, 2018. Motion was approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **West Sid Ski Park Area**

Recreation Director Peterson introduced Mike Segorski, volunteer for the City and Water/Wastewater Superintendent Jeff Lampi. Mr. Segorski spoke on the West Side Ski Park Area, particularly on the land assessment of the area and what it can and cannot be used for, which is included in the Five-Year Recreation Plan as explained by Recreation Director Peterson. Mr. Segorski touched on what the trails were used for and the different seasons they can be utilized. There are approximately 7.5 miles of skiing trails and 4 miles of snowshoe trails that are maintained. The Delta County Non-Motorized Trail Group was discussed; the group is looking for a priority list to see what is going on with the area and also to get a feel of importance of the items on the list.

Mr. Lampi explained the process of the sludge dumping that is currently being done on parts of the cross country ski trails on the West Side Ski Park Area. Mr. Lampi stated that it is his vested interest to protect the acres he currently has to dump sludge and keep recreation activities away from the area during certain times of the year. He further stated that his department is frugal with its costs and runs the sludge dumping as lean as possible with current estimated yearly costs at around \$48,000 to dispose of the sludge. He touched on alternatives to disposing of sludge, but estimated costs would be extremely high and he believes there are other higher priorities where budget funding could be spent if available funds were offered. Mr. Lampi went on to explain what other municipalities are doing and they have contacted his department to see how they could model their program after ours as the costs are a lot lower. He stated currently that there isn't really much of a problem with people entering the designated area that is off limits to the public, however, as more activities are taking place and/or being created, this may need to be addressed in the future. Mr. Lampi stated it would be a full-time job in itself to keep people out and police the area. He stated he appreciated the recreation area that has been created, but he also has a job to do.

### **2018 Bids**

Recreation Director Peterson reviewed the bids for Concessions, Sanitation and Fireworks for the 2018 season. Each proposal only received one bid. The concessions for the park this summer will be provided by Sticky Fingers and he will have control of the beach area as well. The sanitation will be provided by Stenberg Brothers with no cost increases from last year and the Fireworks will be provided by Wolverine Fireworks again this year. These bids will be recommended to City Council on March 15<sup>th</sup> for approval.

### **Project Updates:**

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

Recreation Director Peterson provided an update for the month of February for Civic Center activities.

## **Dog Park**

Recreation Director Peterson updated the board on the current status of the proposed dog park. She stated that the park has been receiving a lot of media coverage and getting a lot of calls from citizens looking to volunteer to help make this project a reality, which in turn would cut down on the overall cost of the project by doing the work with volunteers. She stated that she would like to schedule a work session or public hearing to gather public input as there are too many suggestions and is hard to obtain cost estimates. Recreation Director Peterson stated that the airport eventually will have to put in some sort of a dog park area for service dogs which only helps in getting the project going. It was the Board consensus that a public hearing should be conducted at the next regular meeting of the Recreation Advisory Board.

## **Summer Programs- Events Scheduled**

Recreation Director Peterson touched on the events scheduled for this summer. The programs and events will include soccer and swimming programs for youth. However, there is some difficulty with finding two seasonal soccer instructors. Scheduled events are the two Rock the Docks, two Movie Nights in the Park and potentially a "906" Day on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **Various**

Recreation Director Peterson stated that the music equipment provided by funds from the Kiwanas near Harbor Hideout have been ordered and will be installed this summer. The swinging bench project with a unique design will be revisited and such benches could be placed around the Water Department drive..

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

None.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Joe Kaplan, seconded by Boardmember Valarie Norman, to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Peterson  
Recreation Director

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Karen Moore, Chairperson

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Date