

ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, April 10, 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 City Council Liaison Ralph Blasier

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Peterson, Recreation Director

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmember Patty Woerpel

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 10, 2018

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Joe Kaplan, seconded by Boardmember Barb Chenier, to approve the meeting minutes of April 10, 2018. Motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Dog Park Discussion and Review of Cost Estimates

Recreation Director Peterson stated she is still working on securing a corporate sponsor for the dog park. The cost estimate for materials is approximately \$11,000 which would include fencing for a half-acre park for small dogs and fencing for an acre park for large dogs both with double gates, two benches, garbage receptacle, dog bag dispenser, detailed signage and water source with a hand pump. She anticipates the work being done by volunteers to significantly save on costs. The area available is 3.3 acres and she will ask the Engineering Department to determine the lot layout for the half-acre and one acre parcels.

Recreation Director Peterson stated she attended a public forum in Marquette as they are in the initial stages of constructing a new dog park adjacent to the newly constructed animal shelter. They have the same concerns as us that were brought before the Board in April at the Public Hearing.

Discussed having a minimal fee for area residents at \$10 a year. A registration form will be drafted and reviewed at the next regularly scheduled meeting. It is believed that the registration form will allow for tracking usage at the dog park, along with ensuring that all users have the proper vaccinations. The fees collected will go towards purchasing dog bags.

It is believed that the City will cut the grass and remove the garbage and the Airport will conduct the snow removal since they need to keep the roadway clear as well.

Recreation Director Peterson will contact the new Airport Manager to see if there is any funding available from the Airport since they are required to install a dog rest area for service dogs. She will also verify that everything is in place for when construction starts as a lease agreement has to be signed.

Discussed having a covered pavilion that would benefit both areas of the dog park for small and large dogs. Suggested getting a service group involved with construction so there would be a huge cost saving with not paying labor costs.

NEW BUSINESS

Centralized Ice Rinks

Recreation Director Peterson stated having a centralized ice rink on Civic Center property is incorporated into the Five-Year Recreation Plan.

Previous year budget numbers were reviewed, along with usage for both Webster and Royce Rinks from the last twelve years. Costs are approximately \$25,000 - \$30,000 per winter season to operate both ice rinks with a majority of the costs being labor. Discussed being difficult to determine a cost as the winter months vary greatly for weather which determines how many days the ice rinks are open. There is one full-time union employee for the Recreation Department who floods the rinks and most days another full-time union employee from Public Works floods also.

The Civic Center is centrally located and could benefit more users with kids walking from the High School and Upper Elementary and would be open for additional hours since the Civic Center is open from 2:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday to Friday and noon to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday. Sunday hours could be discussed. The current ice rink hours at Royce and Webster are Monday to Friday 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Saturday 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sundays 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Skates could be checked out and a concession stand could be held at the Civic Center. Staffing is already in place for full supervision and would also include a warming area, restrooms, changing areas and lockers.

Costs for having a centralized ice rink would be \$1,000 per light depending how many would be necessary and \$5,500 for flooring which would allow entry to the side

door and have access to skate rentals (no charge for them), concession and restrooms. Water hook ups are being reviewed by the Water Department and they are speaking with previous employees to determine how the rink was flooded in the past since there was originally an ice rink located on Civic Center property. The hockey boards could be utilized from Webster and/or Royce Rinks.

This item will remain as a topic of discussion for upcoming meetings, along with holding numerous Public Hearings to engage the public with the concept of relocating two ice rinks into one centralized location at the Civic Center to have a huge cost savings and attract additional users.

Project Updates:

Civic Center Usage Update/Program and Activity Update

Recreation Director Peterson provided an update for the month of May's Civic Center activities.

Upcoming Events

Recreation Director Peterson stated the Recreation Department is extremely busy with upcoming Rock the Dock Events on July 6 – 8th and August 3 – 5th. Local bands will perform each day for Rock the Dock with Saturdays being focused on kids with face painting, obstacle courses, bounce houses, fish pond and art projects. There will also be axe throwing and wood carvings. Food vendors will also be on site. Golf Ball Drop takes place on August 4th for Rock the Dock with 600 golf balls being sold at \$25 each with ten additional bonus holes at a \$250 value prizes with proceeds going to the Recreation Department and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. There will be \$7,500 in cash and prizes awarded for the Golf Ball Drop.

Movie Night in the Park takes place on Saturday, June 30th with a showing of Sherlock Gnomes and Saturday, July 21st with a showing of Deep Under Pressure. There will be a "906" Day on Thursday, September 6th with a local band and hoping to obtain a liquor license for Upper Hand Brewery Beer which will take place at the Bandshell.

Summer program registration is coming to an end with soccer lessons starting next week and swim lessons starting in July. The beach opened for the season on Sunday, June 10th with the Webster Wading Pool being painted this week with an anticipated opening date for the season on Monday, June 18th.

Various grants were discussed with the completion of the Regional Prosperity Initiative Grant for non-motorized pathway identification for a bike route from South Lincoln Road along Lake Shore Drive to Ludington Park and 5th Avenue South from South Lincoln Road to Lake Shore Drive. A Hannahville 2% Grant for an ADA complaint drinking fountain near Al Ness Field will be installed before the end of the month, along with ADA walkways and dug out work at Al Ness Field with 2% Grant Funds and Community Foundation Funds.

Various

Recreation Director Peterson stated a scoreboard was erected at Karl Dickson Memorial Field without her knowledge or City permission. The scoreboard was paid for with a \$5,000 donation from Meijer and a \$4,000 from Bink's Bottling. She is trying to obtain paperwork for such donation to verify costs and what commitments were made. The previous scoreboard was removed and she made contact with Meier Signs who stated the scoreboard was going to be disposed of and had no value. The scoreboard is a great addition to the field. However, the signage displays Meijer on top in red and Bink's Coca-Cola Powerade also displayed with Karl Dickson Memorial Field being located on the bottom. If approval was sought for the scoreboard, it would more than likely have been recommended that the signage appear differently. Chairperson Moore did have a verbal commitment from Little League that they would pay up to \$200 to redo the scoreboard signage to reflect Karl Dickson Memorial Field on top so it was displayed appropriately. Contact will be attempted again with Little League to get this rectified.

MISCELLANEOUS

None.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Kaplan, seconded by Boardmember Norman, to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m. Motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Peterson, Recreation Director

Karen Moore, Chairperson

Date