

ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 14, 2023

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Escanaba City Hall , 410 Ludington Street, Escanaba, MI 49829.

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chairperson Rhonda Waters,
Boardmembers Jesse Herman and Jennifer Gylock

OTHERS PRESENT: Recreation Director Kim Peterson, Recreation Assistant Brooks Bougie, City Council Liaison Karen Moore and citizens for pickleball

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmembers Shirley Gollach and Mary Blasier

ANNOUNCEMENTS – N/A

APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 2023

A motion was made by Boardmember Herman, seconded by Vice Chairperson Waters, to approve the meeting minutes for January 10, 2023. Motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

A motion was made to accept the agenda as is by Boardmember Herman, seconded by Boardmember Gylock. Motion was approved unanimously.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION – N/A

PUBLIC HEARING

- 1) **Public Hearing-** Recreation Director Peterson stated the City of Escanaba is seeking input on a (PGS) Public Gathering Spaces Competitive Funding Round for CDBG Fund coming from the Michigan Strategic Fund. Peterson stated that the grant must be a minimum of \$750,000 up to \$2,000,000. The deadline to apply for this grant is April 28th of this year. If awarded the City will get notified by this summer and would be looking for construction to start in the Spring of 2024. The City of Escanaba is committing \$100,000 towards match dollars for the project.

The project will consist of construction of eight dedicated pickleball courts, demolition and construction of a basketball court, resurfacing of two tennis courts and removal and upgrade of playground equipment at Royce Park located at South 19th Street and 7th Avenue South.

Recreation Director Peterson opened the Public Hearing. Calling twice for public comment, none was heard. She asked the audience members if they were in support of the pickleball project and it was the consensus that they were all in support and there was no one against the project.

Recreation Director Peterson read into record a letter submitted by Shirley Gollach in support of dedicated pickleball courts. (Letter is attached along with citizen support for dedicated pickleball courts).

Recreation Director Peterson closed the Public Hearing.

- 2) **Public Hearing** – Recreation Director Peterson stated the City of Escanaba is seeking input on a Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant in the amount of \$300,000 to construct eight dedicated pickleball courts and resurface the basketball court at Royce Park located at South 19th Street and 7th Avenue South. The City of Escanaba is committing \$100,000 towards match dollars.

Recreation Director Peterson opened the Public Hearing. Calling twice for public comment, none was heard. She asked the audience members if they were in support of the pickleball project and it was the consensus that they were all in support and there was no one against the project.

Recreation Director Peterson once again entered Shirley Gollach's letter into the record in support of dedicated pickleball courts at Royce Park. The deadline for this grant is April 1st and the max amount is \$300,000. Notification of grant awards take place in the fall. If awarded the funds, the project will take place in 2024.

The project consists of construction of eight dedicated pickleball courts and resurfacing of a basketball court.

Recreation Director Peterson closed the Public Hearing.

Recreation Director Peterson stated the City of Escanaba applied for two Sparks Grants. One was for the Rose Park Playground equipment and the other was for dedicated pickleball and park upgrades at Royce Park. Both grants were not successful. There were approximately 450 grant submissions and less than 4% of the applications got funding, with only one in the entire UP. There will be another round of funding that will be applied for.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – N/A

NEW BUSINESS

1) Project Updates:

a. Splash Park Grant Update

Recreation Director Peterson stated that initially she was hoping for construction to start this summer/fall but is now looking like summer of 2024, due to delays in shipping materials and the lengthy process for the bid approval from the State of Michigan. The funds for the project were from the Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant.

b. Dedicated Pickleball Court Discussion and Grant Opportunities

Recreation Director Peterson stated that she touched on all the information in regards to dedicated pickleball courts in the Public Hearings.

c. Upcoming Events

Recreation Director Peterson stated that the City of Escanaba will host a number of events coming up this summer/fall to include; Rock the Dock July 1st, August 12th and September 4th which will also coincide with the Labor Day festivities planned. A number of Movie Nights in Ludington Park have been scheduled for June 3rd, June 24th, July 15th and August 19th, Summer of Melodies will take place again on Saturday afternoons which was made possible from a \$25,000 donation and a fishing clinic in conjunction with the Bay De Noc Sports Fisherman Club will be scheduled.

MISCELLANEOUS- N/A

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Tana Porath with Bayside soccer spoke on opportunities for youth in the area. She stated that program for youth have been dwindling and once they are gone they are hard to get back up and running again. Porath stated that we must work to find programming for youth in this area as it has been heading in the wrong direction for years now. She stated that all she is seeing is programs directed towards the adults but not the youth and that worries her.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Boardmember Gylock, seconded by Vice Chairperson Waters, to adjourn with the time being 6:21 p.m. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Waters, Vice Chairperson

Date