

ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 12, 2023

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, September 12, 2023. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room at the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center, 225 N 21st St., Escanaba, MI 49829.

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chairperson Rhonda Waters, Boardmembers Shirley Gollach, Mary Blasier and Jennifer Gylock

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

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmember Jesse Herman

ANNOUNCEMENTS – N/A

APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 14, 2023

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Waters, seconded by Boardmember Blasier, to approve the meeting minutes for March 14, 2023. Motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION – N/A

PUBLIC HEARING - N/A

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – N/A

NEW BUSINESS

1) Review of the Five-Year Recreation and Priorities

Recreation Director Peterson stated that she applied for CDBG Grant Funds and the application was not successful. Another application for MI Community Centers was submitted for upgrading the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center and construction of eight dedicated outdoor pickleball courts.

Recreation Director Peterson gave an overview of the Five-Year Recreation Plan. The splash park project is moving forward and should be complete by the summer of 2024. The priority list was reviewed for upcoming projects and grant opportunities. Peterson confirmed the Board wanted to move forward with the DNR Trust Fund Grant for 2024 with the top priority being dedicated outdoor pickleball courts and to also consider a

separated bike path along 3rd Avenue North. There are funds set aside for a pump track in Ludington Park which were donated by the United Way.

2) **Project Updates:**

a. **Splash Park Grant Update**

Recreation Director Peterson stated that deadline for construction is next June so she is hoping to get the project underway in the spring of 2024, Peterson stated that everything will be gutted from the old wading pool site and the City will be doing much of the removal with \$25,000 worth of in-kind services. The City has contracted with C2AE on the prime professional engineering work.

b. **Dedicated Pickleball Court Discussion and Grant Opportunities**

Recreation Director Peterson stated grant opportunities will be looked at for construction of eight dedicated pickleball courts outdoors.

c. **Upcoming Events**

Recreation Director Peterson stated that the Civic Center opened Monday, September 11th for the after-school program with twenty-seven students registered on the first day.

Recreation Director Peterson touched on the events the Recreation Department held throughout the summer, including 4 movie nights, 8 summer of melodies concerts and 3 Rock the Docks along with Labor Day Parade and Celebration.

Recreation Director Peterson touched on Civic Center Halloween Party on Tuesday October 31st, the city will be partnering with the Community Foundation.

MISCELLANEOUS- Vice Chairperson Waters touched on an Emergency phone for Aronson Island. Funds are being looked for at a cost of approximately \$10,000.

Boardmember Gollach touched on the pickleball party held at the marketplace with approximately seventy participants.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the local pickleball group thanked Recreation Director Peterson for all her work and help with grants and the project for a covered pickleball court.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Boardmember Gollach, seconded by Boardmember Gylock, to adjourn with the time being 6:34 p.m. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Waters, Vice Chairperson

Date