

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

Catherine Bonifas Civic Center, Main Meeting Room
225 North 21st Street, Escanaba, MI 49829



Vacant, Chairperson
Rhonda Waters, Vice Chairperson
Jennifer Gylock, Boardmember
Jesse Herman, Boardmember
Mary Blasier, Boardmember
Shirley Gollach, Boardmember
Karen Moore, Council Liaison
Kim Peterson, Recreation Director

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MINUTES – Regular Meeting of March 14, 2023

APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

PUBLIC HEARING - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review of the Five-Year Recreation Plan and Priorities

Explanation: A review will take place on the 2021-2026 Five-Year Recreation Plan and Priorities.

2. Project Updates:

- a. Splash Park Grant Update
- b. Dedicated Pickleball Court Discussion and Grant Opportunities
- c. Upcoming Events

Catherine Bonifas Civic Center Opening for Season

End of Year Activities Wrap Up

Halloween Party – Partnering with Community Foundation of Delta County

MISCELLANEOUS

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

The City of Escanaba will provide all necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon five days' notice to the City of Escanaba Clerk's Office by writing or calling (906) 786-9402.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly Peterson, Recreation Director

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

8 Action Plan

This section features top priority parks + recreation projects chosen by the community and organized by the Recreation Advisory Board with input from the Recreation Plan Stakeholder Team.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

Priority (1 is highest priority and 3 is lowest)

priority)

Possible funding

Source

1 Non-Motorized Pathway Improvements: Connecting gaps in the City's non-motorized pathway system including:

Private

1. Bike path on the north side of U.P. State Fairgrounds entrance going north to the corner of US2 and 41 and Danforth Road.

Donation/
Foundation/

2. Willow Creek Road between 8th Avenue South to Ludington Street, then along Ludington Street to North Lincoln Road.

Grants/MDOT/
General Fund

3. 3rd Avenue North from North 10th Street to Stephenson Ave; dedicated separate bike path on 3rd Ave

General Fund

4. North 10th Street from 1st Avenue North to 3rd Avenue North (north side of 3rd Avenue North);

5. Stephenson Avenue to Sheridan Road

6. Municipal Dock to North 4th Street

1 Tree Replacement and Preservation for City owned Ash Trees and Other Dead or Dying Trees | Paired with Urban

Private

Forestry Plan: Many of the City's trees are nearing the end of their natural lives and others are impacted by disease, invasive species, or the expansion of others (i.e. Dutch Elm Disease, Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Longhorned Beetles). The City should proactively develop an urban forestry plan to protect and maintain trees.

Donation/
Grants/MDOT/
General Fund

1 Upgrade Playground Equipment | Create a schedule of playgrounds in need of equipment updates and prioritize the list. Integrate universal design principals into the design of the new play amenities. Allow children of all ability levels to play and be challenged at their own developmental level.

Private

Donation/
Grants/
General Fund

1 Splash Park | Install an inclusive splash park for kids and adults to have fun playing with water without the danger of being in deep water. This park could include fountains, slides, buckets and sprays. There would be no standing water which eliminates the need for lifeguards.

Private

Donation/
Grants/
General Fund

1 Veteran's Park Development | Create a comprehensive site plan for Veteran's Park including the elements listed below: A boardwalk with elevated viewing platform and wooden igloo could be integrated into the waterfront. Add a paved path from Lake Shore Drive to 12th Ave. South meandering diagonally through the park and ending at the kid's play area. Consider re-creating Veteran's housing and integrating an interpretive element. Upgrade the playground and picnic area incorporating parking into the design as well.

Private

Donation/
Grants/
General Fund

Action Plan

Priority (1 is highest priority and 3 is lowest)

Possible funding

Source

Private Donation/
Foundation/
Grants/MDOT/
General Fund

- 1 **Resurface Courts** | Follow a regular schedule resurfacing one to two courts a year. When courts are resurfaced they will be reviewed as to their potential to host multi use courts or to include pickleball and tennis. Court life lasts between 5-7 years.
 - Rose Park Tennis Court- Resealed 2016-2017 fiscal year
 - Royce Park Tennis Court- Resealed 2012-2013 fiscal year
 - Royce Park Basketball Court- Resealed 2008-2009 fiscal year
 - Stephenson Basketball Court- Resealed 2016-2017 fiscal year
 - Veteran's Park Tennis Court- Resealed 2015-2016 fiscal year
 - Ludington Park Tennis Court- Reconstructed 2021-2022 fiscal year
 - Ludington Park Basketball Court- Resealed 2014-2015 fiscal year

- 1 **Boardwalk with Integrated Fishing Piers Along Lake Michigan's Shoreline at Aronson Island** | Install an ADA accessible walkway from the marina facility to the bridge on Aronson Island. Situated along the inner harbor section of Lake Michigan's shoreline, the project will showcase views of the lake. Integrate ADA accessible fishing piers along the shoreline of Aronson Island paired with efforts to clean and improve habitat for fish. Administration will look into ways to fund paddle board and kayak rentals at the Municipal Beach area in addition to installing an ADA accessible kayak launch.

- 1 **Dedicated Pickleball Courts** | Citizens are seeking dedicated pickleball courts. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the United States.

- 1 **Escanaba Migratory Bird Enhancement Initiative (EMBEI)** | Continue to support this partnership utilizing community support to enhance bird habitat through planting of native species, control of invasive species, and the placement of nest boxes for cavity nesting birds.

- 1 **Restroom Upgrade** | Municipal Dock restrooms require a total renovation.

- 1 **Define Park Property Boundaries** | Some of the City owned properties are not clearly identified. Create a clear and comprehensive signage plan to properly mark park properties and their boundaries.

Catherine Bonifas Civic Center Repairs | The west side of the civic center needs windows replaced.

- 1 **Ludington Park Restroom Remodel** | This may require demolition and reconstruction of a new restroom facility.

- 1 **Ludington Park Pavilion Electrical Upgrades** | The pavilion blows fuses and needs an electrical upgrade.

1

Action Plan

Priority

(1 is highest priority and
3 is lowest priority)

Possible Funding Source

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 Lighting Inventory Consider LED or Solar fixtures and bat/dark sky friendly. Look into potential savings to turn lights off after a certain hour. The community is very excited to one day host dark sky events. A dark sky friendly city lighting plan would first need to be installed. | Private Donation/
Grants/General Fund |
| 2 Create Walking Trails Outside of the West Side Trail Area Example: Trail along the lakeshore in Ludington Park | Private Donation/
Grants/General Fund |
| 2 Pier 3 Restroom Facility The Marina would like to build a 19' by 34' permanent restroom structure south of Pier 3. | Private Donation/
Grants/General Fund |
| 2 Aronson Island Restrooms The two holding tanks on Aronson Island were filled with sand and covered with a concrete slab for placement of the Port-a-John. The community would like to see a permanent restroom here. Include landscape improvements. | Private Donation/
Grants/General Fund |
| 2 West Side Recreation Area Assess Ski Trails Redirect the trails to avoid the wetland or improve the trail conditions. | Private Donation/
Grants/General Fund |
| 2 Marina Improvements Additional parking along Jenkins Drive and near Pier 3. Curb will be extended approximately 20' toward the bike path to create approximately 42 spaces. Identify two spaces for unloading areas, with time limit signs posted. | Private Donation/
Grants/General Fund |

Action Plan

Priority

(1 is highest priority and
3 is lowest priority)

Possible Funding Source

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3 Pump Track, Skate Park, or BMX Track Identify a proper location and install a skate, scooter and/or bike friendly track for multiple ability levels and generations to practice and play. | Private Donation/
Grants/General Fund |
| 3 Municipal Dock Safety Barrier Install safety barrier at the Municipal Dock to allow for an ADA accessible, safe pathway along the dock. Fishing piers and interpretive signage to be integrated into the project | Private Donation/
Grants/General Fund |
| 3 Additional Pavilion at Ludington Park Construction of a pavilion near the gazebo/marina area to bring activity into the park on this end. The covered pavilion would be rented out and include water and electricity. Landscaping and accessible picnic tables will also be integrated into the design | Private Donation/
Grants/General Fund |
| 3 Dickson Field Improvements Plumbing upgrades need to be addressed to ensure the concession area can run properly | Private Donation/
Grants/General Fund |
| 3 Electric Bike Share Create a more accessible bike share program in Ludington Park to provide ease of access to the downtown area for visitors and community members alike. Electric-Assist bikes could be checked out and dropped off almost anywhere as they would be paired with tracking devices. | Private Donation/
General Fund |