

ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, December 12th. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room at the Civic Center, 225 North 21st Street, Escanaba, MI 49829.

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Boardmembers Shirley Gollach and Mary Blasier

OTHERS PRESENT: Recreation Director Kim Peterson, Recreation Assistant Brooks Bougie, City Council Liaison Karen Moore, Loren Watson and TV 19 News

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chairperson Rhonda Waters and Boardmember Jennifer Gylock

NO OFFICIAL ACTION TAKEN DUE LACK OF QUORUM

Topics Discussed:

Election of Officers: Tabled until next meeting.

Approval of 2024 Meeting Dates: Tabled until next meeting.

Enhance Escanaba Discussion of Refrigerated Ice Rink within Ludington Park:

Councilmember Karen Moore discussed Enhanced Escanaba raising funds to get a refrigerated ice rink at the Municipal Dock. Councilmember Moore stated the rink would operate from November 1st to April 1st. Project is estimated at \$107,000 which doesn't include the lighting. They are looking at raising funds through grants, donations and a Patronicity Grant with 50% match up to \$100,000 (take place in the spring). Discussion took place on having a "winter wonderland" theme with the refrigerated ice rink and the possibility of renting it out for events. Councilmember Moore also stated that fundraising for the electricity could be done by sponsorship banners around the rink area. She further stated to move the project forward Enhanced Escanaba would like the support of the Recreation Advisory Board. She has spoken to various City departments and management and stated they are in favor of the project.

Discussion took place on who would be responsible for the work of the setting up, taking down, snow removal, clearing/smoothing of the ice, fundraising and scheduling. This has yet to be determined. Also discussed whether the ice rink at the Catherine Bonifas Civic Center would remain and/or the funds being transferred from the ice rink to the refrigerated ice area. Recreation is in charge of the ice rink currently and Public Works is in charge of the Municipal Dock area.

Director Peterson stated she had concerns with operation and maintenance as the Recreation Department has one full-time employee in the field. The same employee does the trail maintenance to include snow shoeing and cross country ski trails at the West Side Recreation Area and within Ludington Park. The ice rink at the Catherine

Bonifas Civic Center is in operation for approximately two months and the refrigerated ice rink would be in operation for five months.

Since there was a lack of quorum there could be no official action taken, but the two Boardmembers in attendance showed their support to move forward with fact finding and project details.

Project Updates:

Splash Park: Recreation Director Peterson gave an update on the status of the splash park and stated that she is hopeful the project will start next spring. The city is working with C2AE and the DNR. Bids need to be sent out yet.

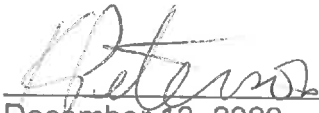
Dedicated Pickleball Courts: Recreation Director Peterson stated that she submitted five grants for dedicated pickleball. Two from the DNR Trust Fund which were not funded and two from the Sparks Grant which were not funded. Results from the Michigan Community Center grant should be announced by the end of the year. The Recreation Department is moving forward with the DNR Trust Fund Grant for dedicated pickleball courts at Royce Park as per the direction of the Recreation Advisory Board from their last meeting.

Upcoming Events: Recreation Director Peterson touched on upcoming events at the Civic Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



December 12, 2023

Kim Peterson, Recreation Director