

ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 12, 2024

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, March 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, Mary Blasier and Lorne Watson and Chairperson Rhonda Waters

OTHERS PRESENT: Recreation Director Kim Peterson, Recreation Assistant Brooks Bougie, City Council Liaison Karen Moore; other public included, Kevin Chown, Craig Woerpel and David Pinozek Jr

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chairperson Jenny Gylock

ANNOUNCEMENTS – N/A

APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2024

A motion was made by Boardmember Blasier, seconded by Chairperson Waters, to approve the meeting minutes for February 13, 2024. Motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION – N/A

PUBLIC HEARING – Grant application for eight dedicated pickleball courts through Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fund Grant. Recreation Director Peterson touched on the grant and provided an update on the increased costs. The grant maximum in 2023 were \$300,000 and in 2024 the maximum allowed to pursue is \$400,000, which the city will be providing a 25% match at a cost of \$100,000 of the total cost of the project. The scope of the project remains the same.

Public Hearing Opened

Three signatures were written into the record to show support for the dedicated pickleball courts. The letter of support from last year can be carried over for a new public hearing and letter of proposal.

Public Hearing Closed

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – N/A

NEW BUSINESS

Ludington Park Food/Drink Concessionaire Proposal

Recreation Director Peterson stated the City received one proposal this year; Sticky Fingers who has been vending down at the park for some twenty-five years.

A motion was made by Boarmember Watson, seconded by Chairperson Waters, to recommend to City Council approval of the bid from Sticky Fingers. Motion was approved unanimously.

Sanitation Services for City Parks Proposal

Recreation Director Peterson stated that the Recreation Department sent out bids for sanitation services for 2024. One bid was received from Stenberg Brothers.

A motion was made by Boardmember Watson, seconded by Chairperson Waters, to recommend to City Council approval of the bid from Stenberg Brothers for 2024 sanitation services. Motion was approved unanimously.

Project Updates:

Royce Multi-Use Court Resurfacing – Recreation Director Peterson stated the 2023 Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant was not received and \$40,000 was placed in the budget to do the resurfacing work of the multi-use courts. Three bids were received with two being over budget and one bid being received stating the surface would crack within the year. No action was taken and this will continued to be looked at and discussed.

Dedicated Pickleball Courts and Grant Opportunities – Recreation Director Peterson stated that the City is still looking into other grant opportunities for eight dedicated pickleball courts. The 2024 Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant will be submitted for \$400,000.

Music Opportunities for 2024-Outdoor Events – Boardmember Watson created a sub committee with Craig Woerpel and Kevin Chown to help look into and find new musical talent locally and regionally to create more diverse music opportunities for the City. He stated there are initial plans in place and will work with the City to bring more musical talent to the forefront for the upcoming year.

Marina Duties for the Upcoming Season – Director Peterson stated that Recreation Department has officially taken over the Harbor duties and is currently seeking summer help for dock attendants. There will be an informational meeting for all boaters April 3rd at 6:00 p.m. at the Civic Center to answer any questions or concerns.

MISCELLANEOUS – Boardmember Watson touched on a club he created called the Escanaba Skate Club to help and assist Enhance Escanaba with the refrigerated ice rink project and maintenance associated with it.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT – Kevin Chown asked about porta potties being available by the bandshell for the City Band, to cut down the distance to use the bathroom. He was referred to contact the Public Works Department.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Boardmember Watson, seconded by Boardmember Blasier, to adjourn with the time being 7:02 p.m. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Waters
Chairperson

Date