

## **City of Wyoming Parks & Recreation Commission**

### **MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF May 8, 2013**

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Present: Robert Cook, Megan Harley, Eric Hartfield, Oogie LaMar, Alex Smart  
Absent: Rod VanOeveren, Doug Wustman, Doug Broek, Aaron Velthouse, Dave Skinner, Rich Pastoor (City Council Liaison)  
Guest: Christina Agema  
Staff Present: Rebecca Rynbrandt, Gloria Pelton

- A. Call to order of the Parks and Recreation Commission – Chairperson**  
Eric Hartfield called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- B. Approval of Agenda –**A motion was made by Megan Harley to approve the agenda and it was seconded by Oogie Lamar. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes of the April 11, 2013 Meeting –** A motion was made by Oogie Lamar, seconded by Megan Harley to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2013 meeting. Motion carried.
- C. Public Comment on Agenda Item (limit to 3 minutes) –** Christina Agema informed the commission that she is present to inquire about the status Jackson Park's redevelopment project.
- D. Buck Creek Nature Preserve**
- **Paved Path Redevelopment -** A1 Asphalt informed us that due to further damage from the flooding they are recommending total repaving of the trail and they are putting together a revised estimate which may actually come in less than the previous cost of repair. The project completion scheduled for June 1.
  - **Boardwalk Concern/evaluation –** After the last meeting, and pre-flood damage from the past few weeks, Rebecca had asked that commission members walk the boardwalk to form an opinion whether to remove or remove/replace the boardwalk. City Council has initially indicated for it to be removed and not replaced. Flood waters caused more significant damage to the structure which leaves no other choice than to remove it. Following the removal, we will see what the response from the citizens is for the possible construction of a new boardwalk. Alex Smart walked the trail and feels it will be a great loss to the area as it is such a unique attraction to the area. He reported that he counted 26 people using the trail in a 20 minute span. He feels that the redevelopment project could be done in phases. Megan Harley said that it is hard to speculate without cost estimates. Rebecca informed them that it was included in the FEMA damage report but she is unsure of possible assistance with the funding. She will be meeting with FEMA on May 9.

With the failure of WPS millage, Rebecca shared that the City Manager suggested that we might try to engage teams or groups from the high school to assist with the removal of the trail in exchange for a donation to their program(s). There would be many details to work out prior to involvement. Oogie Lamar had suggestions for groups that may be interested. Rebecca will contact Tom Reeder to discuss the possibilities.

- F. Kent County Parks & Recreation Study – Phase II** - Rebecca Rynbrandt was in attendance at the most recent meeting. The lack of attendance at the meeting is believed to be a good indicator of the interest, or lack thereof, in a Phase 2 of the study. There were only four cities and two townships represented at the meeting. The East Grand Rapids manager said that he is going to approach the UMM group and suggest that phase 2 not occur.
- G. Pinery Park Restroom and Concession Stand** – We have been awarded CBDG funds to fund this project. The restroom/concession project located within Pinery Park is the top project followed by the arches at Veteran's Memorial Park and then the fitness equipment in Pinery. 75% of the footprint for the restroom/concession building will be from the Gezon facility. PPLL would like more concession space and less storage. Rebecca will meet with FTCH to determine if those changes can be made and stay in the budget. While approved by the City of Wyoming, grant funding has not yet been received from HUD. Project cost may require us to eliminate the equipment and one of the arches. The project will be built on the same site to be able to utilize sewer, etc. The goal is for the project to begin August 5. It has to occur this year because HUD requires the project to be cleared out by May 1, 2014. This is one time funding available by HUD.
- H. Update on Flooded Park Properties** - The City of Wyoming has 227 properties which were directly affected by the flooding, 62 of which are commercial properties. There were 342 which had power outages caused by the flooding. The park areas hardest hit were the Buck Creek Nature Preserve, Ideal Park, 40<sup>th</sup> St Park, and Marquette Park (Dog Park) which had waters above the fence. Battjes Park had significant ground water flooding. The damage which was directly linked to flood may not be FEMA eligible because it is not in the flood plane. Lamar was also ground water flooding. Ideal had significant flooding with mandatory evacuation for citizens and is part of the Buck Creek project. Gezon Park had some ground water from a nearby pond and had some structural damage to a nearby water station. Pinery Park had washout on Field 3 and the north end of the path was closed down as it was under water and just reopened today. The tree canopy causes some concern with the weakened root system and possible trees falling. Jackson Park fared very well. Rebecca praised the staff of the Community Services area for their excellent work with the flood damage. The City of Wyoming's drinking water remained safe because the COW has separate sewage and drinking water systems. The Clean Water Plant had about \$250,000 worth of damage. The total estimated damage in the city is estimated at \$1.2 million but we will be better informed after the meetings with FEMA.

- K. Commissioner Concerns and Suggestions** – Eric mentioned that he feels that the minority representation on the Parks & Recreation Commission is impressive but feels that the female gender is not well represented. Rebecca explained that seats are filled by residents who apply for involvement on the commission while some are appointed by their school district. The minimum age is 18 for commissioners and suggested that we promote to people in the 18 – 35 age group. Rebecca indicated it could be added as a standing item to the agenda. Commissioners are encouraged to recruit individuals to apply at the Clerk's office.
- L. Public Comment in General** – Oogie introduced Christina Agema and explained that she owns property adjacent to Jackson Park. He encouraged her to come to the meeting to voice her concern. Christine voiced concern with the fact that the Jackson Park project has basically come to a stand still. She requested an explanation of where the project is at. The park's master plan was established approximately 5 years ago. Rebecca shared that the development plan is estimated to cost close to \$4 million to complete the project. In the previous two years, consultants were hired to help us understand the storm water and the storm water structure replacement was evaluated. Phase one includes storm water control, playground area, a restroom building and the splash pad, Not including the cost of storm water structure replacement, phase one is estimated at \$1.2 million. City of Wyoming had raised \$450,000 for the match of the initial grant amount however the State of Michigan has since capped their grant amounts at \$300,000 so the city would need 900,000 to match which would not allow the fund balance to remain. Due to the recent flooding, priorities have shifted once again as other expenses have developed. We have to maintain what we already have before building new.
- Christina mentioned how busy the park is with no bathroom facility and that people actually use the woods behind her house for that purpose.
- Oogie asked if Portable restrooms would be an option and Rebecca explained that we had one there in the past and they were significantly vandalized so they were removed.
- Christina feels that the park is much neglected. She said that there is a hole in the slide and the play area is unsafe. Rebecca told her she and staff were not aware of that but it will definitely be investigated tomorrow. Christina is concerned with language and vandalism in the area. Rebecca suggested that the neighbors report any occurrences to the Wyoming Police Department and insist on a police report number. Christina also requested that some picnic tables be placed in the park.
- M. Motion to Adjourn the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting** – Motion to adjourn was made by Oogie LaMar and seconded by Megan Harley. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Recorded by   
Gloria Pelton  
Recording Secretary