



CITY OF LOWELL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL – 301 E MAIN STREET

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

3. SELECTION OF NEW CHAIRPERSON

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

5. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Review of Mierendorf 10/19/20 Email Discussion Items
 - b. Review of Schaal 10/19/20 Email Discussion Items

6. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. None

7. PARK UPDATES
 - a. Recreation Park
 - b. Stoney Lakeside Park/Dog Park/Skateboard Park
 - c. Creekside Park
 - d. Richards Park
 - e. Scout Park/Upper Bridge
 - f. Riverwalk Park/Showboat
 - g. LARA Trails

8. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Note: The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2020 at City Hall.

Hello Everyone,

Dan, as always, thanks for the updates!

I don't know how the other commissioners feel, but I would really like to have our October meeting. In-person or virtual, both work for me, but I would like to take the time to connect and meet "face-to-face". Email updates are much better than nothing, but with the legal restrictions, we cannot have any discussions or bring up any other topics. And, with hunting season starting, I suspect many of us will vote to cancel the November meeting like we do every year, Lol!

Regarding agenda items, in addition to our regular agenda, we could add these to revisit / discuss:

- Update for the Fair finances – any new updates/plans for the move, etc.?
- Repair of the fence in Rec Park: how did that conversation go, what is the next step?
- Discussion about what to work on next from our long-term Recreation Plan – We spent a lot of time and resources working together with the community to decide these items and I understood we would use that as a guide to improve and update the parks for the next few years. Funding options? What budget do we have? Etc.
- Update from our conversation in May (?) about the Little League and how their funds will be used, updates to their contract, etc.
- Discuss and decide how we would like to restructure the fee schedules for the various facilities and groups that use our parks. Let's meet to determine our plan on this so Dan and Mike can more efficiently review the contracts to ensure consistency.
- Synopsis of costs for the parks – Dan was working to provide an estimate of costs per park so we could better evaluate the equity of fees being collected and make sure the costs for use were equitable across facilities.
- New commissioners added to the Parks Commission – What is the process? How does this impact current commissioner commitments? With Perry gone, let's talk about what new commissioner we need to ensure a balanced viewpoint for the community.
- Chairperson responsibilities – What are we looking for in a chairperson? What are they responsible for? What is the process to nominate/appoint?
- Ongoing decisions about agenda items – How best to connect for items going forward so Dan and Mike don't have to try to guess what we want to talk about?

Things have definitely been different for the last six + months and we have all been doing our best to adapt. Fortunately though, because of that, there are now many meeting platform options for virtual meetings. How do the rest of the commissioners feel about this? Would you be interested in finding a way to continue meeting as a commission?

Regards,
Paula

Parks and Recs Committee Items for Discussion

1. Forth coming items re. holiday and winter activities including ice rink.
2. Tree trimming along the board walk specifically the trees outside the Chamber building.
3. New use for the east side of the 238 High Street property adjacent to the library
 - a. Basketball court
 - b. Pickleball court
 - c. Other
4. Create formal river access at the north end of the parking lot at the Boy Scout Park. Terraced stairs of treated wood wide enough for fisherman and kayak launching.
5. Develop plan for use of the fair grounds property.
6. Develop plan for the lower dam islands.
7. Develop plan for the river front property between the King Milling trailer parking lot and the river south of the dam and at the islands and north of the rail tracks.
 - a. Friendly for fisherman
 - b. Friendly for kayakers
 - c. Friendly for picnicking
8. Develop policies and procedures for maintaining the rip rap area below the dam.
9. Discuss shoppers dock to be placed south of the Show Boat and west of the Flat River Grill patio.
10. Get educated on policies and procedures, if any, for the ongoing painting and maintenance of benches, red trash receptacles, lamp posts, fire hydrants, trees, landscape boxes, etc., and interact with appropriate committees (DDA, Arbor Board, Historic Committee) re. the ongoing maintenance and improvement of aforementioned.
11. Explore placement of art work around the core of the city similar to what Hastings, MI does.
12. Explore sponsorship of various plant areas and opportunities around the core and on Main Street.
13. Review of existing parks.

14. Review creation of other park and parklette opportunities including north of the LL&P line shack building and the old rowing scow boat area at the north end of the boardwalk park and river front property north of the rail and east of King Milling and ball field.
15. Recommendation to the city the DPW completes the clearing and cleanup of the old boat area and extends irrigation to it and landscapes and hydro seeds it.
16. Develop a strategic plan to utilize and maximize Lowell's natural park opportunities around its various water frontage.
17. Update of status of Fred Meijer Trail project.