

Approved

**LOWELL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL**

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

- The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and roll was called.

Members Present: Chairperson Paula Mierendorf, Casey Butler, Theresa Mundt, Susan Pomper, Councilperson Leah Groves

Members Absent:

Others Present: Dan Czarnecki,

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED BY BUTLER and seconded by POMPER to approve the agenda as written.

YES: 5. NO: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

IT WAS MOVED BY MUNDT and seconded by GROVES to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2021, regular meeting, as amended.

YES: 5. NO: 0. ABSENT: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

4. REVIEW FINANCIAL REPORTS

The financial information was reviewed by the board

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

No comments were received or discussed on this item.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on Recreation Plan Update

Czarnecki went over information provided by Tanya DeOliveira from Williams & Works at the February meeting (no quorum @ 2/14 mtg) on the Rec Plan updating process. Starting the process early to stay ahead and better planning, not to get done quickly. The process will take 6-9 months. Will try to get some early input from public. Will utilize online survey (with hard copies available). Will hold stakeholder meetings with several small specific park user groups. Process will review and update inventory analysis and goals/objectives. Need to have adopted by City Council and submitted to DNR by Feb 1st. Czarnecki has been sending DeOliveira information from past Park Board meetings as well as answering W&W questions.

b. Update on Skate Park Improvement Project

Groves went over her conversations/emails she has been having with Bob Rogers on the Skate Park improvement project. The project group is now considering expansion of the Skate Park by adding a bowl for skating. This would double the size of current park. Rogers is working with his group to come up with the funding and design. They still need to finalize the feasibility of expansion. Group will be holding a Public Forum on March 24 to discuss Skate Park Improvement Project. Location is not yet known. Should have a late February announcement.

7a. INFORMATION

a. Grand River Water Trail Designation

Czarnecki attended a Zoom meeting with Lower Grand River Water Trail Steering Committee and Access Site Owners and Managers Meeting on February 14th. Discussed was the creation of a Water Trail designation of the Grand River from Lyons to Grand Haven. This designation is already on the Grand River from Lyons to the headwaters near the Jackson area. Group is looking for support and possible assistance to help obtain State Water Trail status. Open House will be held in GR at GVSU on February 23 to obtain public input. Trail status could help in obtaining grants for improvements at the Grand River boat launch access site.

b. Kent Conservation District

Representatives from the Kent Conservation District attended City Council meeting on February 7th to discuss their services for management of invasive species. They pointed out issues with Swallow-Wort in the Hillside Ct and Shepard St areas. Also gave info on Invasive Bitterroot growing in roadside ditches, very noticeable along Vergennes Ave. They provided the City with brochures on the invasive species and they will also be holding an Open House at the Wittenbach Wege Center on Feb 27th for the public to learn how to manage these plants. Information on the invasive species and on their services was supplied to the board.

8. PARK UPDATES

- a. Recreation Park –
- b. Stoney Lakeside Park/Dog Park/Skateboard Park
- c. Creekside Park
- d. Richards Park – DPW created the ice skate rink in late December and was able to keep the ice in a usable condition through early February. Many people utilized the rink. However, warm temp and rain in mid-February caused the ice to all melt. DPW will not be working on the rink any more for this winter.
- e. Scout Park
- f. Riverwalk Park/Showboat
New bathroom facility is being used for some downtown events. Still waiting on auto locking system to be installed.
- g. Miscellaneous Park/Properties (Upper Bridge/McMahan/Moose/Rogers)
- h. LARA Trails
Presentation of the overall LARA Trail project was presented by Williams & Works to City Council at their Feb 7th meeting. A YouTube video is available on the presentation. Still finalizing plans with MDOT and MDNR to complete the trail in two phases, with construction of Phase 1 in 2023.

9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED BY MUNDT, seconded by POMPER, to adjourn the meeting at 6:4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Czarnecki