



Parks and Recreation ♦ 4811 North Saginaw Road ♦ Midland, Michigan 48640 ♦ 989.837.6930 ♦ 989.835.5651 Fax ♦ www.cityofmidlandmi.gov

January 28, 2016

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Karen Murphy, Public Services Director

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of February 2, 2016

The regular meeting of the Midland Parks and Recreation Commission has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2016. The meeting will be held in Council Chambers of Midland City Hall at 333 W. Ellsworth and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call
- 4) Minutes of meeting of December 1, 2015
- 5) Call to Audience
- 6) America In Bloom update
- 7) Division Report – Winter recreation update
- 8) Project Reports
 - a. River overlooks
 - b. City Forest trail signage
 - c. MNRTF grant application for Emerson Park
- 9) Old Business
 - a. Update on recreation fee scholarship suggestion
- 10) New Business
- 11) Adjourn



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TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Karen Murphy, Director of Public Services

SUBJECT: Notes for Meeting of February 2, 2016

America In Bloom update: I will provide an update on the progress of the AIB steering committee in moving forward with the application process and the planning process for the judges' visit this summer.

Division Report: Marcie Post will provide an update on winter recreation programs, including follow up on the Night at the North Pole and the Santa Calling program. In addition, the City welcomed the Midland Public School's annual snow sculpture contest to the City Forest this year and Marcie will share some information on that program.

Project Reports: I will provide an update on the ongoing river overlook project and the City Forest trail signage project. I will also discuss the possibility of reapplying in 2016 for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant program for the upper Emerson Park riverfront renovation project as the project did not receive funding in 2015.

Old Business: I have looked into the suggestion by Commissioner Billotti on the feasibility of offering a scholarship program to help with recreation fees for low income residents and will provide a staff opinion on the matter.

MIDLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 1, 2015
MIDLAND CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 P.M.

PROPOSED MINUTES

- 1) Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairperson John Metevia
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call:
 - a. MEMBERS PRESENT: Billotti, Bovid, Carlson, Metevia, Rankin, Rice, Steidemann, Varela
 - b. MEMBERS ABSENT: Carney
 - c. OTHERS PRESENT: Dave Waite, Chairperson – Non-Motorized Transportation Committee; Brad Kaye, Assistant City Manager for Development Services
- 4) Minutes of November 4, 2015: Billotti motioned, Carlson seconded to receive minutes of the meeting of November 4, 2015. Motion passed 8-0.
- 5) Call to Audience: None
- 6) Public hearing on proposed recreation fee changes for 2016: Murphy reviewed the proposed recreation fees as presented to the Commission at their November meeting. The proposed fee changes include:
 - Increase adult softball from \$27 to \$28 per player
 - Increase adult softball fall league from \$17 to \$18 per player
 - Increase youth softball from \$8 to \$9 per player

A public hearing was scheduled for this evening but there were no audience members present, so the public hearing was closed with no comments offered. Given the minimal changes recommended for 2016, Murphy shared that a joint meeting between the Commission and the City Council is not needed at this time. Murphy will present the recommended changes at the first reading of the ordinance before Council at an upcoming meeting in either December or January. Steidemann motioned to recommend the fees as proposed to the City Council at the upcoming joint meeting, and Rankin seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

- 7) Non-Motorized Transportation Committee Update: Non-Motorized Transportation (NMT) Committee chairperson Dave Waite presented an update on the non-motorized transportation efforts in the city. Waite reported that the City is on version 2 of the NMT plan, focused around bicycle-friendly communities and the 5 E's model (Education, Encouragement, Engineering, Evaluation and Enforcement). Waite shared that the NMT committee works annually to promote bike to school/work week, and has worked with the City to get bike lanes on E. Ashman and St. Andrews this past year. Waite shared

statistics on the number of children biking to school, collected via bike rack counts at schools, along with accident statistics involving bicycles and pedestrians. Waite reviewed the current NMT map and discussed recent exploration efforts to expand NMT routes to surrounding areas in the County, including potential trail development out Poseyville Road and north into Larkin Township. Waite also talked about the Grand Curves trail being underutilized and suggested that the Parks & Recreation Commission consider renaming it to give it a more meaningful name to encourage more use of the trail.

Brad Kaye, Assistant City Manager for Development Services, spoke about two ongoing NMT projects that will likely be shared with the Parks & Recreation Commission in the near future for consideration: 1) the Oldcastle/4D site demolition is underway and a development plan is in the works to repurpose the area as park land connected to surrounding trail systems; and 2) there is a committee working on wayfinding signage for City trail network via a grant from the Entranceway Initiative Task Force.

- 8) Proposal to rename former school-park partnership locations: Murphy reviewed the three former school-park partnerships that the City held with Midland Public Schools. With the closure of the three elementary schools that pertained to each of these, the City has developed new agreements as follows: Cook Elementary playground is now covered by a recreation easement with Midland Public Schools and the Chippewassee Elementary playground is now covered by a recreation easement with Windover High School that allows the City to maintain both of these playground areas; Longview Elementary sprayground is now covered by a recreation agreement with the Midland County ESA to allow the City to continue operating and maintaining the sprayground.

Murphy suggested that the Parks and Recreation Commission rename the old Chippewassee school playground since there is already a Chippewassee Park in Midland. In keeping with the nomenclature of other neighborhood parks being named after the adjacent street, Murphy suggested Avon Park as the main entrance to Windover School and the play area is off of Avon Street. Billotti suggested naming the play area Smith Park because access off M-20 is via Smith Street and therefore would help direct people to the play area. Steidemann made a formal recommendation to name the area Smith Park. Rankin motioned and Varela seconded the motion to rename the play area Smith Park. Motion passed 8-0.

- 9) America In Bloom recognition program proposal: Murphy shared a proposal from the Beautification Advisory Committee for the City to pursue recognition under a nationwide beautification program called America In Bloom. Murphy reviewed the requirements of the program as well as the criteria that are judged. In order to move forward with the process, Murphy requested a formal recommendation of support by the Parks and Recreation Commission. In addition, staff will bring to the Commission at their February meeting a recommendation on members for the subcommittees that will see the process through, and the Commission will be asked to formally appoint individuals to the subcommittees. Rankin motioned to support moving forward with Midland's application for America In Bloom, and Varela seconded it. Motion passed 8-0.

10) Project Reports:

- a. **Chippewassee Park pathways and river overlooks:** Murphy shared photographs of the newly paved pathway in Chippewassee Park and along the river to the Currie Parkway Bridge. Murphy shared that restoration work on the trail shoulders is still underway along with cleanup of the park. Murphy reported that three of the river overlooks on the Golfside Drive side of the river have concrete on the approach pathways, and are awaiting a final pour of concrete for the pads that overlook the river. Murphy is uncertain if the contractor will be able to complete the remaining two river overlooks on the Rail Trail side of the river along with the erosion control work at the boat launch yet this year – progress will be weather dependent at this point.
- b. **Central Park project with Midland Morning Rotary:** Murphy shared photographs of the concrete pathways at Central Park and reported that the City has received many positive comments on the improvements. Additional work to include installation of park benches, a small pavilion and recognition signage will occur in the spring to wrap up the project.
- c. **City Forest trail signage project:** Murphy shared that approximately 140 sign posts have been installed so far, and that drafts of the proposed signage have been shared with user groups for their review including equestrians, mountain bikers and Nordic skiers. The draft signage will be shared with the public through user groups and online sources to gather additional input before the signs are sent off for production. Installation will occur over the course of the winter.
- d. **Final score for MNRTF grant application – Upper Emerson Park:** Murphy reported that the final score for the upper Emerson Park grant was received in November, with the application receiving 345 out of 520 possible points which is 10 points higher than last year's score. Park Supervisor Bart Heil will be attending the December 2 meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund board to promote the project one last time during the public comment section before the board decides which grant applications to fund.
- e. **Recreation programs - Santa Calling and Night at the North Pole:** Murphy shared information on two upcoming holiday programs – Night at the North Pole, which is for ages 5-10 and involves a fun evening of holiday crafts at the City Forest Chalet and Santa Calling, which is a program where we patch calls from the North Pole to local homes so children can talk with Santa. Both programs require pre-registration and can be registered for online at www.cityofmidlandmi.gov/recreation.

11) Old Business: Billotti asked if anything had been done with his suggestion for a scholarship program to cover recreational fees for individuals who cannot afford the fees. Murphy said she will share the concept with the City Manager for consideration.

12) New Business: Murphy reminded the Commission that there is no scheduled meeting in January due to the proximity of the holidays. The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be held in February.

13) Adjourn: Motioned by Billotti, seconded by Steidemann to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 8–0. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Murphy
Director of Public Services