



Parks and Recreation ♦ 4811 North Saginaw Road ♦ Midland, Michigan 48640 ♦ 989.837.6930 ♦ 989.835.5651 Fax ♦ [www.cityofmidlandmi.gov](http://www.cityofmidlandmi.gov)

February 25, 2016

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Karen Murphy, Public Services Director

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of March 1, 2016

The regular meeting of the Midland Parks and Recreation Commission has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 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 February 2, 2016
- 5) Call to Audience
- 6) Grant application to Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for Emerson Park project
- 7) America In Bloom update
- 8) Division Reports:
  - a. Pere-Marquette Rail Trail – Role of City Parks Department
  - b. Chippewa Banks Disc Golf Course
- 9) Project Reports
  - a. River overlooks
  - b. City Forest trail signage
- 10) Old Business
  - a. Recreation fees approved for 2016
- 11) New Business
- 12) Adjourn



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February 25, 2016

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission  
FROM: Karen Murphy, Director of Public Services  
SUBJECT: Notes for Meeting of March 1, 2016

Grant application to Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for Emerson Park project:  
As previously reported, the City was not successful in obtaining a 2015 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for the Emerson Park riverfront renovation project. Staff feels very strongly that the project has good merit and fits within the guidelines of the MNRTF program, so I am moving forward to resubmit the grant request for 2016. The grant request to MNRTF will again be for \$300,000 and requires support from both the Parks and Recreation Commission as well as an approved resolution of support from the City Council. I will be asking for a motion of support and a recommendation from the Parks Commission that City Council pass a resolution in support of the grant application.

America In Bloom update: I will provide an update on the progress of the AIB steering committee. This will be a regular update item throughout the AIB program timeline.

Division Report: Park Supervisor Bart Heil will join us to give presentations on the Pere-Marquette Rail Trail and the City's role in maintenance. Bart will also review the Chippewa Banks Disc Golf Course. Both of these are topics of interest that are included in this year's Commission Work Plan.

Project Reports: I will provide a brief update on the river overlook project as well as the City Forest trail signage project. These projects are moving along slowly but we are seeing some progress which is encouraging!

New Business: I will remind the Commission that there is no scheduled Parks Commission meeting in April due to the proximity of the schools' spring break. Also, three Commissioners' terms will come to an end in June. I will share who has expressed interest in staying on the Commission and who will be stepping down from their seat.

MIDLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2016  
MIDLAND CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
7:00 P.M.

PROPOSED MINUTES

- 1) Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson John Metevia
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call:
  - a. MEMBERS PRESENT: Billotti, Bovid, Carlson, Carney, Metevia, Rankin, Rice, Steidemann, Varela
  - b. MEMBERS ABSENT: \*Rankin arrived after role call was taken
  - c. OTHERS PRESENT:
- 4) Minutes of December 1, 2015: Bovid motioned, Carlson seconded to receive minutes of the meeting of December 1, 2015. Motion passed 8-0.
- 5) Call to Audience: None
- 6) America In Bloom Update: Murphy met with the America In Bloom (AIB) steering committee in January. The steering committee consists of 5 members of the Beautification Advisory Committee along with staff from Parks and Recreation. The committee continues to work on the 25-page community narrative that needs to be submitted to AIB prior to the judges' visiting. The narrative highlights Midland's accomplishments in the 6 judging criteria: Overall Impression, Environmental Efforts, Heritage Preservation, Urban Forestry, Floral Displays and Landscaped Areas. Murphy explained that since the last Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, staff has learned that AIB does not require formal subcommittees as originally thought, so the Commission does not need to take action on appointing members to the subcommittees. The steering committee has opted to form two subcommittees to handle marketing/logistics and planning the tour component of the program. Murphy shared that the steering committee plans to highlight the return of Midland Blooms as well as the Make Midland "Bloom" poster contest by creating YouTube videos and promotional information on both programs. The steering committee is waiting to find out the exact dates for the judges' visit, and Murphy said she will provide updates on the AIB effort at each upcoming Commission meeting.
- 7) Division Report: Winter Recreation Update: Murphy shared that both holiday recreation programs were a success again this year. Santa Calling placed 207 calls and Santa was able to speak with 340 children. Night at the North Pole was held at the City Forest Chalet over two nights with 42 children participating in crafts, cookie decorating and games.

In addition, the Midland Public School's annual snow sculpture contest was moved this year from the Farmers Market location out to the City Forest Chalet.

Murphy shared that this was a mutual decision between the City and MPS. By moving to the Chalet, the Parks crew is able to make snow for the event when natural snow is not available. Also, the students are able to warm up in the Chalet. MPS planned an evening event for the students to come back and enjoy the sculptures with a disc jockey and special lights, but the event was called off this year due to rain.

Murphy provided information on spring programs that are kicking off, with registration currently underway for the Midland Girls' Softball League for girls ages 4-13. The City's adult softball registration will kick off the end of February with packets being mailed out to all team managers. Murphy also reminded the Commission that park shelter reservations are now year round, with users able to make their reservation 364 days prior to their event each year. Other spring updates include registration for the Circle Area Community Garden, which begins February 22, and the Make Midland "Bloom" poster contest which is underway in the local elementary schools.

Murphy shared that recreation manager Marcie Post has set Midland Parks up on Instagram as another social media platform. Park users can find us on Instagram at #midlandparks.

8) Project Report:

- a. **River overlooks:** Murphy reported that work continues on the river overlooks. The three overlooks on the Golfside Drive corridor have the stone walls in place and the approach walkways complete, but are awaiting a final pour of concrete on the half circle riverfront platforms. The contractor has started work on the two overlooks on the Rail Trail side of the river, with construction of the stone walls. Murphy is hopeful the concrete work will be complete within the next six weeks, weather dependent. The final component of the project includes installation of railings along the edge of each overlook platform, as well as final grading and site restoration, which will need to wait until conditions warm up in the spring. Once the contractor finishes up with the overlooks, work will start on stone retaining walls along either side of the Golfside Drive boat launch.
- b. **City Forest trail signage:** Murphy shared that an online Survey Monkey survey was sent out to user groups and the general public via the Parks Facebook page. Over 80 responses were received, with the majority very positive in nature. The final sign design has been approved and sent to the fabrication shop for production. Murphy said the signs will be installed as soon as final copies start arriving from the production shop.
- c. **MNRTF grant application for Emerson Park:** Murphy reported that unfortunately the City's proposal for renovations to upper Emerson Park riverfront did not receive funding again this year from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant program. Murphy is going to apply again for the grant in 2016 as staff feels the project will be very impactful to the area and the overall riverfront development for the community. The initial application is due April 1.

9) Old Business: Murphy provided a response on Commissioner Billotti's request to consider a recreation fee scholarship program for low income residents to participate in City recreation programs. Murphy shared the idea with the City Manager for input. The City's current recreation fee philosophy already takes into account a large subsidy from the General Fund for youth activities, with fees set to recover only the programming aspect of any youth program. Programming costs generally account for less than half the total cost to the City for a given program. This makes youth recreation more affordable for all participants as opposed to a scholarship based subsidy which would only benefit a portion of participants. Murphy therefore stated that requesting additional City funds to support a scholarship program is not an approach that she would recommend.

10) New Business: None

11) Adjourn: Motioned by Billotti, seconded by Steidemann to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 9- 0. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Murphy  
Director of Public Services