

MIDLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 3, 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, Steidemann, Varela
 - b. MEMBERS ABSENT: Rice
 - c. OTHERS PRESENT: Bart Heil, Park Supervisor; Marcie Post, Recreation Manager
- 4) Minutes of March 10, 2016: Billotti motioned, Bovid seconded to receive minutes of the meeting of March 10, 2016. Motion passed 8-0.
- 5) Call to Audience: None
- 6) Consumers Energy tree planting grant: Bart Heil shared information on an upcoming volunteer tree planting event sponsored by Consumers Energy and ReLeaf Michigan. On May 14, volunteers will plant trees along N. Saginaw Road from Shipp's Family Park toward Barstow Woods to replace trees lost to emerald ash borer. Consumers Energy is donating the trees (40 trees valued at \$10,000) and ReLeaf Michigan is organizing the volunteers. The planting will focus on the right tree in the right place that puts smaller trees under utility lines. Steidemann motioned and Rankin seconded to accept this generous project on behalf of the City. Motion passed 8-0.
- 7) America In Bloom update: Murphy showed the logo "Get Your Bloom On Midland" and shared that the promotional seed packets have arrived. The seed packets are being distributed to the participants of the Make Midland BLOOM poster contest. Murphy shared that the community narrative is near completion, and the judges visit has been set for July 21 and 22. The AIB committee is working on the details for the tour. The "Secret Garden" photo contest to engage neighborhoods will run in conjunction with nominations for the Beautification Awards. Murphy stated the AIB committee is also working on the YouTube piece as well that showcases Midland as a community.
- 8) Division Report:
 - a. Parks - Summer operations report: Heil outlined the summer operations that happen each year in parks, including key areas of parks mowing, arboriculture, parks & facility maintenance and major park projects. Heil shared details on each of these areas as follows:
 - i. Mowing:
 - 350 acres mowed with in-house crew using two large 16' batwing mowers

- Two trim crews that consists of 2 seasonal employees with 72” front line mowers
 - Contract out pocket parks and some right-of way areas (85 acres)
- ii. Arboriculture:
- In-house forestry crew consisting of 4 full-time arborists, 2 full-time equipment operators and 2 seasonal employees
 - Forestry equipment consisting of 2 aerial bucket trucks and 2 large chippers
 - Tree Tracker computer database to track work request and work completed
 - On average each year – 500 trees removed, 2,500 trees pruned, 50-300 trees planted and 1,000+ trees treated systemically
- iii. General Parks & Facilities Maintenance:
- Spring Start Up –
 1. Put restrooms back together at 10 locations
 2. Spray parks and Plymouth Pool preparation
 3. Drinking fountains
 4. Opening up facilities:
 - a. Shade sails up
 - b. Trash cans set out
 - c. Volleyball and Tennis nets put up
 - d. Put docks in the water
 5. Clean trails, picnic pads and picnic shelters
 6. Set out picnic tables
 - Hiring of seasonal crews –
 1. Hire summer crew of 25 employees
 2. Each major park has a lead attendant (Emerson, Plymouth and Stratford)
 3. Mobile Crew: custodial, trash, event set up/tear down, picnic table delivery, open and close facilities daily
 - Senior Parks Maintenance Crew –
 1. Electrical, Fabrication, Mechanical, Construction
 2. Pool and spray parks
 3. Facilities maintenance
 4. Play equipment
 5. Major projects
- iv. Major Park Projects & Improvements:
- Toboggan Run Stairs
 - Playground refurbishments
 - New grills and memorial benches
 - Fabricated soccer goals
 - Revamping park entrance signs
 - Rebuilding remaining old features at Fun Zone
 - Use in-house staff to manage contracted projects as well –
 1. Finishing up Chippewassee pathway and river overlooks
 2. Additional work at Central Park
 3. City Forest trail signage fabrication and installation

Metevia asked Heil about the work that is underway at the Grand Curves. Heil said forestry is taking down dead ash trees and glossy buckthorn. The plan is to plant a fescue grass and continue to mow the area down periodically to control buckthorn regrowth.

- b. Recreation: Marcie Post reviewed the City Forest end of season report for winter activities and shared the new pool pass key chain format for Plymouth Pool. Post stated swim lesson registration will begin June 1, the pool will open June 11 and swim lessons will start June 20. Post shared that May 3 is Give Local Midland through the Midland Area Community Foundation to encourage local giving to endowed funds held at MACF. The Fun Zone, Band Shell and Tridge all have endowed funds participating in the program. Post gave details on the May 7 Pitch, Hit and Run competition to be held for the first time at the Dow Diamond in partnership with the Great Lakes Loons. Post also shared that the Make Midland BLOOM poster winners will be recognized at the May 9 City Council meeting.

Billotti asked how the City did with recruiting additional umpires. Post shared not as good as hoped, with only a handful of new umpires registering to participate. The City can still use more umpires per Post.

9) Project Report:

- a. **River overlooks and City Forest trail signage:** Murphy shared photographs of the river overlooks along the Rail Trail, the Golfside boat launch with the new stone retaining walls, and the City Forest main trail signs.
- b. **Midland Academy parks clean up event:** Murphy reported on a recent volunteer project where Midland Academy brought 200 students and parents to four parks to clean up for a day. The group cleaned up litter, sticks and limbs, and also spread new playground fall protection mulch at Emerson, Plymouth, Grove and Central Parks.
- c. **Arbor Day recognition events:** Murphy shared the City partnered again with the Dow Gardens to visit Woodcrest, Siebert and Adams Elementary Schools. Educational sessions were held on the importance of trees, and a specimen tree was planted at each school. Murphy stated the Arbor Day events are a requirement for the Tree City USA status that the City has held for 20 years.
- d. **Modern Woodsmen of America tree planting event:** Murphy shared that the Modern Woodsmen of America volunteered for a second year in a row to plant trees in two neighborhood parks. The group donated the trees and the labor to plant in Winger and Griese Parks.

10) Old Business : None

- 11) New Business: Murphy shared that the Great Lakes Bay Region BMX non-profit group notified the City that they are no longer able to sustain operations. Parks staff is looking at how the City will take the track maintenance in-house. There will be no sanctioned races going forward.

12) Adjourn: Motioned by Billotti, seconded by Carlson to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Murphy
Director of Public Services