

MIDLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2016  
MIDLAND CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
7:00 P.M.

PROPOSED MINUTES

- 1) Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairperson John Metevia
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call:
  - a. MEMBERS PRESENT: Billotti, Carlson, Carney, Metevia, Rice, Steidemann, Johns
  - b. MEMBERS ABSENT: Rankin, Varela
  - c. OTHERS PRESENT: Park supervisor Bart Heil
- 4) Minutes of August 3, 2016: Billotti motioned, Carlson seconded to receive minutes of the meeting of August 3, 2016. Motion passed 6-0.
- 5) Call to Audience: None
- 6) Adoption of FY 2016/17 Work Plan: Murphy shared the updated work plan that includes the topics discussed by the Commission at the August meeting.

The Commission agreed with the topics as proposed with the understanding that new topics may come up throughout the year that may take precedence over those included in the work plan. Carney motioned to accept the work plan as proposed, Johns seconded. Motion passed 6- 0.

- 7) Proposal for seasonal closure of Chippewassee Park parking area: Park supervisor Bart Heil presented a staff recommendation to close off access to the Chippewassee Park parking area from December 1 – April 15. Heil explained this is a poor condition gravel lot that gets muddy and beat up in winter months. Closure of the lot will minimize damage and help staff get the lot in usable condition sooner in the spring. Heil shared that the boat launch parking area and the trail into the park will be plowed and available for use for walking access into the park. If the City gets negative feedback on the closure, it can always be reopened mid-winter. Murphy stated that getting Commission approval this early in the fall will allow staff to post notices to let users know that the parking area will be closed starting December 1. Heil shared there is a gate already in place that can be used for the closure.

Murphy asked for a motion of support for closing the parking area on a trial basis for 2016. Carney motioned, Rice seconded the motion and the motion passed 6 -0.

- 8) Introduction of recreation fee review calendar: Murphy reviewed the recreation fee review schedule. The schedule is designed to give the Commission an opportunity to review staff recommendations on fee changes and to accept public input on any proposed changes before the Commission proposes the changes to the City Council for consideration. The proposed schedule includes:
- a. September Commission meeting – Commission to review recreation fee schedule
  - b. October Commission meeting – Commission to review recreation fee philosophy
  - c. November Commission meeting – Staff to propose revised fees for the Commission to consider
  - d. December Commission meeting – Commission to hold a public hearing to receive input on proposed fees
  - e. Mid-December Joint meeting – Invite City Council to meet with the Commission to discuss the proposed fees
  - f. December/January – First and second reading of proposed ordinance at City Council
- 9) Revised grant request for upper Emerson Park riverfront improvements: Murphy shared that in discussing the City's grant application with the Michigan Department of Natural Resource's grant coordinator, a suggestion was made that if the percent of matching funds were increased slightly, the City would be able to get additional points added to the total application score. Murphy explained that the MDNR Trust Fund board ranks all projects by score and grant funds are allocated to larger projects based on total score, so making this change could improve the City's chance at receiving funding. Murphy showed that by shifting \$5,000 from the grant request to the matching funds, the City's percent of match increases to over 27% which would earn the City an additional 5 points on the scoring matrix. In order to make this change, MDNR requires a revised certified resolution from the City's governing body. Murphy explained that this requires a recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Commission to City Council along with City Council's formal approval of a revised resolution explaining the change in funds requested. Johns motioned to recommend the revised grant funding request to City Council for approval. Carney seconded the motion and the motion passed 6 - 0.
- 10) Project Reports:
- a. **Central Park human sundial:** Murphy shared pictures of the progress made to date on the human sundial in Central Park. Made possible by a generous donation from a private individual, the sundial is near completion and has already drawn attention from park patrons. The City will put an interpretive sign up to explain how to use the sundial as well.  
  
Murphy also shared that ground has been broken for the pavilion at Central Park, with footings set to support the concrete and steel structure. The time line for completion is November.
  - b. **Currie pedestrian bridge project:** Murphy shared that the bid has been awarded to JR Heineman and the materials are on order. The bid came in under budget, so the project was expanded to include handrail down each approach to the bridge. This will replace old single pipe railing on the Golfside Drive side of the river. Murphy shared pictures of the materials that will be used, and said the proposed timeline for

construction is mid-September through the end of October. The project was coordinated along with the Main Street construction project.

- c. **Recreation programs:** Murphy shared the following on fall recreation programs: Zombie Run is scheduled for October 15 at the City Forest with a race time of 4:13 pm. Pooches at the Pool will happen on Saturday, September 10 from 9:30 – 1:00 pm with over 100 dogs already registered. The Grand Experience senior trip to Mackinac Island is full with 59 travelers leaving on October 10 for a 3-night excursion.

11) Old Business : NONE

12) New Business: Murphy reported that Stratford Woods Lake Kiwassee will be under treatment for the aquatic invasive weed Eurasian milfoil. The City hired an environmental consulting firm to treat the lake and are waiting on the DEQ permit. Two treatments will be done yet this fall, with treatment continuing into next year. Staff will be posting information before each treatment happens and the lake will be closed the day of the treatment application.

13) Adjourn: Motioned by Billotti, seconded by Rice to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 6–0. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Murphy  
Director of Public Services