

MIDLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 6, 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, Carlson, Johns, Metevia, Rankin, Steidemann
 - b. MEMBERS ABSENT: Carney, Rice, Varela
 - c. OTHERS PRESENT: Pam Blough, PM Blough, Inc.
- 4) Minutes of November 1, 2016: Steidemann motioned, Carlson seconded to receive minutes of the meeting of November 1, 2016. Motion passed 6-0.
- 5) Call to Audience: None
- 6) Central Park proposed master plan: Murphy reported that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan has action items related to creating a master plan for Central Park. To move that process forward, a meeting was held in October with interested user groups from Midland Community Center, Pickle ball players, Midland Tennis Center, neighbors of the park, Midland Public Schools, Midland Morning Rotary, Alden & Vada Dow Family Foundation, Chemical City Band, and City parks supervisors along with correspondence from the Kings Daughters Home and the Midland Lacrosse group. Landscape architect Pam Blough led user group discussion to gather input on what should be included in the Central Park master plan. Murphy introduced Pam Blough to share with the Commission the process to date. Blough showed photographs of the existing park features and layout, then presented the initial draft of the proposed master plan. Blough discussed the proposed layout of the multi-purpose field, the redesign of the parking lot and the reshaping of the berms to open up access to the park. Blough discussed all other elements of the plan as well, including relocating the tennis & pickle ball courts and installing a multi-generational play area near the Kings Daughters facility.

Steidemann suggested a drop off cutout on Collins, and Johns agreed this would provide a location for the band to drop off equipment as well. Billotti suggested outdoor fitness equipment and tables with checker boards. Resident David Waite addressed the Commission concerned with the width of the pathways and concern for cyclists in the park. Waite suggested these should be multi-use pathways. Waite also suggested a shaded seating area for the pickle ball courts, and asked if there would be room in the future to expand to 8 courts. Resident John Muste suggested moving the pickle ball courts to where the current parking area is to locate the courts as close to the school as possible in case the schools opt to have students play pickle ball in the future.

Murphy thanked the residents for their input, and explained that staff would work with Blough on some additional modifications to the plan, after which the plan would come back to the Commission for a final approval.

- 7) Beautification Advisory Committee member approval: Murphy reported that the Beautification Advisory Committee (BAC) has a vacant seat, and Mr. Joe Kozuch has submitted an application to serve on the committee. Mr. Kozuch is a Midland business owner who lives outside the city limits. Murphy explained that the ordinance requires approval from the City to allow a non-resident to serve on a board or commission. Since BAC is a subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Commission can grant this approval. Staff is supportive of Mr. Kozuch's application, and Murphy asked for a motion to approve appointing him to the BAC. Rankin motioned, and Steidemann seconded the motion to appoint Mr. Joe Kozuch to the Beautification Advisory Committee. Motion passed 6 - 0.
- 8) Division Report – Cemetery Update: Murphy gave an informational update on the Midland Cemetery, including a brief history of the cemetery. Murphy shared that the cemetery has a perpetual care fund of just under \$2M and the cemetery has an estimated 8-10 years of lot sales remaining. Murphy reviewed the fees at the cemetery and noted that fees have remained unchanged since 2002, suggesting that staff do a fee comparison with other municipal cemeteries to see if Midland rates need adjusting. Murphy shared operational information on the current turf management program, tree maintenance program and the road maintenance plan. Murphy also shared that her staff has been working with Information Services to develop an interactive cemetery map as a layer in the City's GIS system. The map is still under development with the goal of making this information available to the public in the future.
- 9) Project Report:
 - a. EAB removals at Washington Woods and Meadowbrook Park – Murphy reported on two large Ash tree removal projects. Parks in-house forestry crew removed 200 Ash trees from Washington Woods grounds. A second project at the Meadowbrook drainage area will involve removal of 220 trees by Kindy Tree Service, who was contracted via a competitive bid process. These removals require access through private property, which Kindy will negotiate as needed.
 - b. Upper Emerson Park MNRTF grant application scoring - Murphy shared that the City received a final score of 410 on the grant application, up from 335 the last two years. Midland's grant is ranked #6 out of 132 applications and the MNRTF board meets December 7 to recommend which grants to fund.
 - c. Winter recreation programs – Night at the North Pole and Santa Calling: Murphy shared that both programs still have openings and registration can be done online or via the Parks and Recreation office. Staff are still looking for Santa Calling volunteers as well.
- 10) Old Business : None

11) New Business: Metevia reminded the Commission that there is not a meeting scheduled for January. The next meeting will be held in February.

12) Adjourn: Motioned by Billotti, seconded by Carlson to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 6- 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Murphy
Director of Public Services