



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

March 28, 2019

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Karen Murphy, Public Services Director
SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of April 2, 2019

The regular meeting of the Midland Parks and Recreation Commission has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 2, 2019. 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 5, 2018
- 5) Call to Audience
- 6) Grove Park Master Plan – final review
- 7) Public Art Committee – Grove Park art piece
- 8) Central Park project proposal – Miracle Field
- 9) City Forest end of season update
- 10) Project Reports
 - a. Upper Emerson Park renovation
 - b. Park Rule amendment
 - c. Keep America Beautiful
 - d. Spring Recreation update
- 11) Old Business
- 12) New Business
- 13) Adjourn



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March 28, 2019

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Karen Murphy, Director of Public Services

SUBJECT: Notes for Meeting of April 2, 2019

Grove Park Master Plan - final review: I will share the revised Grove Park master plan along with cost estimates on the various features. The revised plan is based off comments received at the March Commission meeting. I will ask for a motion of approval from the Commission at the end of this discussion – the motion will accept the plan as presented and direct staff to work with potential funders to start building out the plan.

Public Art Committee – Grove Park art piece: Representatives from the Public Art Committee will present the detailed rendering of the origami crane sculpture that will be installed in Grove Park this summer.

Central Park project proposal: I will present a proposal to build a Miracle Field in Central Park. Miracle Field is a baseball field for children and adults with disabilities that offers a barrier free field surface. I will share research staff has done on other Miracle Fields and will present a proposed conceptual plan for the field. The field will result in a modification to the Central Park master plan that was approved in 2016, so I will be asking the Commission for a motion to accept the proposed field and direct staff to seek out funding support for the project.

City Forest end of season update: I will provide end of season statistics on the winter City Forest operations.

Project Reports:

- a. **Upper Emerson Park renovation** – I will provide an update on the project, including current work on site and details on damage caused on site after the recent flood. The damage has resulted in a need to reengineer the lower level hand railing that runs along the river's edge.
- b. **Park Rule amendment** – I will report back on the park rule amendment that addresses recreation marijuana use in park spaces and the updates being made to rental agreements as a result.

- c. **Keep America Beautiful** – Council supported the formation of a Keep Midland Beautiful affiliate and staff will be hosting the initial community board kick off meeting on Wednesday, April 3.

- d. **Spring Recreation update** – I will provide information on the Make Midland Beautiful poster contest display and Council recognition, Pitch Hit and Run competition and sign up details for Plymouth Pool swim lessons.

Respectfully,

Karen Murphy

MIDLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 5, 2019
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 Ares Varela.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call:
 - a. MEMBERS PRESENT: Billotti, Carlson, Carney, Foster, Johns, Rankin, Rice, Steidemann, Varela
 - b. MEMBERS ABSENT:
 - c. OTHERS PRESENT: Pam Blough, PMBlough, Inc.
- 4) Minutes of December 4, 2018: Rankin motioned, Foster seconded to receive minutes of the meeting of December 4, 2018. Motion passed 9-0.
- 5) Call to Audience: None
- 6) Grove Park Master Plan draft review: Murphy reviewed the process to date for creating a master plan for Grove Park, including a public input session held in January led by landscape designer Pam Blough. Blough then reviewed the features included in the master plan draft and went through the draft plan in detail with the Commission. Audience members were invited to provide comments on the plan as well. Blough addressed questions relating to the use of the active lawn, the amount of lighting, whether a drinking fountain would be offered, the layout of the basketball court, the type of surface for the walkways and whether the plan includes perimeter fencing. Blough shared that the final plan will include cost estimates for the various developments, and talked about the master plan as a tool for saving space for future uses in the park. Murphy shared the master plan will be built out as funding becomes available. The final plan will be presented at the April Commission meeting for approval.
- 7) Review of Tridge lighting guidelines: Murphy shared that the Tridge's color-changing LED light system have operated for a full year and as promised, the guidelines are back before the Commission for review. Murphy shared that no concerns were raised over the course of the year related to the light shows. Murphy also presented a formal request from a student group at Delta College to add recognition of Earth Day to the list of light shows. Given the mission of Parks to preserve green space and the natural environmental features in our parks, staff is supportive of recognizing Earth Day. Murphy asked the Commission to consider approving this request.

Carney motioned to add Earth Day to the Tridge Lighting Guidelines and Foster seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 - 0.

- 8) Park Rules & Regulations amendment addressing State legislation on recreational marihuana: Murphy reported that in December, State legislation went into effect legalizing the use of recreational marihuana. The legislation prohibits recreational use in public places, which includes public parks and recreational facilities. Murphy stated that to clarify how this law pertains to park properties, the following amendment is recommended for the Park Rules & Regulations under Section 4:

- C. MARIHUANA. No person shall consume, smoke or vape marihuana on or within any City park property, including pavilions, restrooms or buildings, or in and around any City-owned recreational facilities including the Midland Civic Arena and Currie Municipal Golf Course per State statute MCL §333.27954(e), or as may be amended, which prohibits recreational marihuana use in a public place.

Murphy also pointed out a spelling error in the existing Park Rules Section 11 that would be corrected via the amendment process. Amending the Park Rules requires a recommendation to City Council from the Commission that the rules be amended accordingly.

Foster motioned to recommend that City Council amend the Park Rules & Regulations with the aforementioned additions and updates, and Steidemann seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 - 0.

- 9) Keep America Beautiful affiliation: Murphy gave a short presentation on the nationwide non-profit organization Keep America Beautiful, whose three key goals are to end littering, improve recycling and beautify communities. DowDupont has provided funding for an affiliate to be established in Midland. Murphy shared that Midland already does an excellent job with the key goals, and becoming an affiliate would allow Midland to share successes, learn from other affiliates and apply for grants to improve existing programs. In order to become an affiliate requires a formal resolution of support from City Council, along with permission to establish a board of community organizations who will commit to and support the effort. Murphy asked for a Commission recommendation to City Council to support the establishment of a Keep Midland Beautiful affiliate that includes creation of a board of community members to champion the cause.

Rankin motioned to recommend that City Council support the establishment of a Keep Midland Beautiful affiliate group and associated board, and Johns seconded the motion. Motion passed 9 - 0.

10) Project Reports:

- a. **Upper Emerson Park** – Murphy shared photos of the boardwalk and stated that crews were preparing to install the handrails throughout the project. The trellis for the river overlook is anticipated to arrive this month. The parking lot and associated concrete work will need to wait until the spring thaw. Murphy is pleased with the progress given the late start in the fall, waiting for MDEQ permitting.
- b. **Recreation Fees** – Murphy shared that City Council unanimously approved the fee changes for 2019. The changes were put into effect upon approval, completing the fee review process for the year.
- c. **Pickle Ball & Tennis Court project funding update** – Murphy was pleased to share that the City was successful in receiving the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for \$115,000 toward the project. The local required match of \$115,000 is also fully funded at this time. Murphy stated that staff is working with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to get the LWCF project agreement in place. The agreement is between the City and the National Park Service to allocate the federal funds to the project. Murphy is hopeful the project agreement will be finalized with funds available by June, after which the project will commence with detailed engineering specifications and a formal bidding process.

11) Old Business : None

12) New Business: None

13) Adjourn: Motioned by Steidemann, seconded by Carlson to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 9– 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Murphy
Director of Public Services