



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

February 24, 2022

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Karen Murphy, Public Services Director

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of March 1, 2022

The regular meeting of the Midland Parks and Recreation Commission has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2022. The meeting will be held in person at the Council Chambers of Midland City Hall at 333 W. Ellsworth Street and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Welcome new Commissioner
- 4) Minutes of meeting of December 7, 2022
- 5) Call to Audience
- 6) City Forest signage proposal for dogs
- 7) City Forest e-bike consideration
- 8) City Forest winter operations end of season update
- 9) Middle of the Mitt Miracle League update
- 10) Project Reports
 - a. Recreation Fees
 - b. Poseyville Riverfront Renovation
- 11) Old Business
- 12) New Business
- 13) Adjourn



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

February 24, 2022

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Karen Murphy, Director of Public Services

SUBJECT: Notes for Meeting of Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Welcome New Commissioner: I will welcome new Parks Commissioner Weikang “Ken” Wang to the Commission. Ken’s appointment brings us to a full commission of nine members. Welcome Ken – we look forward to your input!

City Forest signage proposal for dogs: I have proposed language for an educational sign for dog owners at the City Forest. The City has a designer on hand ready to layout out the sign once the language is reviewed and confirmed.

City Forest e-bike consideration: Staff has received multiple inquiries about the use of e-bikes at the City Forest. Current Park rules prohibit motorized equipment on the trails. The request has been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney. The next step is to discuss this at the Commission level as a change to the Park Rules would be required to formally allow e-bike use at City Forest.

City Forest winter operations end of season update: Marcie Post will share a report on the City Forest winter operations for 2021/22 and will provide end of season statistics on usage. We have had a wonderful season at City Forest this winter!

Middle of the Mitt Miracle League update: Marcie Post will provide an update on the creation of the Miracle League program with a grand opening date set for Saturday, May 14.

Project Reports:

- Recreation Fees - I will announce that City Council has approved and adopted the recreation fee increases. Increases are now in effect for all recreation programs.
- Poseyville Riverfront Renovation – I will share a report on the Poseyville Riverfront Renovation project. Initially led by the Michigan Baseball Foundation in partnership with the City’s Planning Department, the project has been handed over to City Parks for final design and implementation. I will share conceptual drawings and discuss the implementation plan for this project that will begin this summer.

Respectfully,

Karen Murphy

MIDLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 2021
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 Nancy Carney.

Pledge of Allegiance
- 2) Roll Call:
 - a. MEMBERS PRESENT: Bartle, Billotti, Carney, Rankin, Steidemann
 - b. MEMBERS ABSENT: Carlson, Montalbano, Varela
 - c. OTHERS PRESENT:
- 3) Minutes of November 3, 2021: Billotti motioned, Steidemann seconded to receive minutes of the meeting of November 3, 2021. Motion passed 5-0.
- 4) Call to Audience: Four audience members asked for improvements to Barstow Woods to make it a better location for dogs. Suggested improvements included paving the parking lot, fixing all broken or missing fence sections, adding a water source and improving drainage.
- 5) Public hearing on proposed recreation fee changes for 2022: Murphy reviewed the proposed recreation fees as presented to the Commission at their November meeting. The proposed fee changes include:
 - Increase all softball fees by \$2.00 per player for adult and youth leagues
 - Adult summer league to increase from \$33 to \$35 per player
 - Adult fall league to increase from \$23 to \$25 per player
 - Youth league to increase from \$12 to \$14 per player
 - Increase beach volleyball fees with change to a per team fee versus per player
 - 2 person team - \$70 per team
 - 4 person team - \$140 per team
 - 6 person team - \$200 per team
 - Eliminate the Rugby Club fee
 - Add Community Garden plot rental fee of \$35 per season
 - Increase toboggan rental from \$8 per hour to \$10 per hour
 - Increase sled rental from \$4 to \$5 for a two-hour rental
 - Add City Forest Chalet cancellation deposit of \$50
 - Increase City Forest Winter Packages by \$25 per package and each additional hour:
 - Warming House package - \$175 for 2 hours, \$100 for each additional hour
 - Winter Fun package - \$275 for 2 hours, \$125 for each additional hour
 - Toboggan Adventure package - \$375 for 2 hours, \$175 for each additional hour
 - Tournament Fees
 - Change non-refundable field deposit to \$75 or full fee whichever is less

- Increase field rentals as follows:
 - 4 hour rental - \$60 to \$75 per field
 - Full day rental - \$110 to \$125 per field
 - Daily Complex rental of Optimist - \$300 to \$350 per day
 - Daily Complex rental of New Redcoats - \$400 to \$450 per day
- Eliminate Rake/Chalk only option
- Increase ball diamond grooming from \$20 to \$25 per groom
- Swimming Fees
 - Add Large Group Fee for groups of 25 or more – Use limited pass rate

A public hearing was scheduled for this evening to review the proposed fee changes but there were no audience members present who wished to comment, so the public hearing was closed with no comments offered. Murphy shared that a joint meeting with City Council is scheduled for Monday, December 20 at 6:00 pm in City Council Overflow Room. Murphy will then present the recommended changes at two City Council meetings in January for consideration and adoption.

Billotti motioned to recommend the fees as proposed to the City Council, and Bartle seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

- 6) City Forest concerns about off leash dogs: Murphy shared that concerns have been voiced on social media recently about off leash dogs at City Forest not being kept under control of their owners. Several emails have been received by Parks & Recreation offering support for both sides of this issue, with people in favor of keeping the current rules of dogs being under reasonable control of owners and other people in support of enacting a leash requirement for City Forest. Murphy shared the City's current ordinance language and allowed the audience members to speak. Twelve audience members spoke their opinions with two in support of a leash requirement and the balance wanting education to continue allowing dogs off leash with responsible owners. The Commission discussed the issue and suggested the City start with educational signage while staff continues to gather information from other municipalities who have faced this issue.
- 7) Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Application for Upper Emerson Riverfront Phase II: Murphy shared that the Upper Emerson Park grant request to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund was selected to receive \$300,000 in funding. Fund allocation and the project agreement process takes between 4-6 months. Murphy anticipates a project start date for design work in July/August 2022. The total project cost is \$431,000 with the balance of funds coming from the City Parks budget.
- 8) Access to Recreation Grant Application for Stratford Woods Park accessible kayak launch: Murphy shared that the request for \$40,000 from the Access to Recreation fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation was approved to relocate the Sanford Lake accessible canoe and kayak launch to Stratford Woods Park. The total project cost is estimated at \$64,000 with the City parks budget to provide the balance of funds. This project will occur in spring/summer of this year.
- 9) Project Reports
 - a. **Miracle Field**: Murphy shared photos of the project to date. Phase I completion goal is December 2021, with design work for Phase II to occur over the winter. Murphy


reported that the City received a \$10,000 grant from Hemlock Semiconductor. There remains a funding gap of \$495,000 to complete the project. Murphy hopes to start Phase II in June 2022 after the first season of the Miracle League wraps up.

10) Old Business: None

11) New Business: None

12) Adjourn: Motioned by Steidemann, seconded by Rankin to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" at the end.

Karen Murphy
Director of Public Services