

MIDLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2023  
MIDLAND CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
7:00 P.M.

APPROVED MINUTES

- 1) Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Neil Rankin.

\*\*Pledge of Allegiance\*\*

- 2) Roll Call:

- a. MEMBERS PRESENT: Bartle, Billotti, Carney, McCoy, Montalbano, Rankin, Steidemann
- b. MEMBERS ABSENT: Varela
- c. OTHERS PRESENT: Marcie Post, Assistant Director of Public Services

- 3) Minutes of December 6, 2022: Montalbano motioned, Bartle seconded to receive minutes of the meeting of December 6, 2022. Motion passed 7-0.

- 4) Call to Audience: None

- 5) City Forest Mountain Biking Flow Trail proposal: Steven Keeley and CJ Brey of the Central Michigan Mountain Biking Association (CMMBA) shared a proposal to design and construct a mountain biking flow trail and skills park at the City Forest. Brey gave an overview of a flow trail, describing it as a progressive training format for children and adults to learn to ride on natural surface trails. The project would consist of a skills park area as well as a trail system with two loops of increasing difficulty. To date, there are two youth programs that meet at City Forest two nights each summer with a combined total of over 200 children and 65 adult coaches who participate. The proposed trails would provide approximately two miles of soft surface trails. Flow trails are designed intentionally according to standards to protect the environment, prevent erosion, have slightly less risk and to hold up better over time. The trails can be multi-purpose for use on foot, fat tire bikes, snow shoes as well as mountain bikes. The proposed trail system would be designed using grant funds already secured by CMMBA and CMMBA would lead a fundraising effort to raise the estimated \$200,000 needed for construction. CMMBA would enter into a memorandum of understanding for continued maintenance of the trails once in place in partnership with the City.

Murphy asked for a motion of support from the Parks Commission to allow CMMBA to move forward with a design and construction cost estimate with the understanding that the final project design would then need to go to City Council for consideration and approval before construction could begin. Billotti made this motion, it was seconded by McCoy and the motion passed 7-0.

- 6) Grove Park Changing Places restroom donation: Murphy shared the plans for a restroom facility to be built in Grove Park. The restroom will consist of two ADA-compliant restrooms and one Changing Places restroom that has an adult changing table, an overhead lift system for people in wheelchairs to transfer to the toilet or changing table and other features to meet

complex needs. The Midland Noon Rotary Club has received \$475,000 in grants and donations toward the project with the City's Parks budget contributing \$25,000. Murphy asked the Commission for a motion of support to recommend that City Council accept this generous donation from Rotary to allow this project to move forward. Steidemann motioned and Montalbano seconded the motion to make this recommendation to Council. The motion passed 7-0.

- 7) Miracle Field play area and shade sail design: Murphy shared conceptual designs for a play area and a shade sail picnic area at the Miracle Field Complex. She also shared that there is approximately \$200,000 in the Miracle Field project fund at the Midland Area Community Foundation to be used toward this project. Additional funds will need to be raised before the project can move forward. Once these two areas are completed, the only remaining phase at the Miracle Field will be the reconstruction of the main parking lot, which Murphy stated would not be considered until after the Greater Midland Community Center completes their project as this area is serving as overflow parking for their patrons during the construction of their new facility. Murphy asked for a motion of support from the Commission for the play area and shade sails as this will be helpful as staff moves forward with fundraising efforts. Carney motioned and Bartle seconded the motion to offer support for the project. Motion passed 7 - 0.
- 8) Project Reports:
  - a. **Currie Stadium demolition**: Murphy reported that demolition is nearly complete at the stadium site. The stadium structure is down, both dugouts have been removed and the outfield light poles are being taken down. Fortunately the backstop foundation was separate from the surrounding concrete structures so the backstop was able to remain in place. Murphy shared there is still debris to be removed from the site as well as a lot of site restoration that will take place in the next few months. Some fence work will need to be completed in order to allow play to resume on the field as well. Overall, the project has gone well and is on track for completion as planned.
  - b. **Poseyville Riverfront Restoration**: Murphy shared a conceptual drawing of the pedestrian walkway that will span the river. She also shared that work will resume in the next couple of months on the site. A few unanticipated issues have been unearthed that have slowed down the project, one of which is the need to re-route a city water main. This work was already planned by the City's Water Department and will start in early May. Some underground foundations were encountered that required additional excavation. Removal of overhead utility lines and power/telephone poles will take place soon as well.
- 9) Recreation Update: Murphy reported that the first reading of the Recreation Fee ordinance occurred on January 23 with Council scheduled to conduct the second reading and adoption on February 13. The fees will go into effect upon adoption. Post shared information on City Forest including lack of winter offerings due to weather conditions. It is likely the cardboard sled races that were postponed until the end of February will need to be cancelled as well. Post reported that the toboggan runs will not be operational this season as staff needs 4-5 days of subzero temperatures to build the runs and the decision is not made to do this unless there are two or more weeks of forecasted consistent cold weather to maintain the runs. Post shared that registration opened for Community Garden plots on Monday, February 6 and the plots filled up by the end of the day. Post also shared that the Grand Experience trip is open for

registration with over 62 rooms of the total 75 rooms available already sold. Post reported that staff is gearing up for Miracle League with registration to start the end of February and opening day scheduled for April 29. Following the spring league, Post plans on hosting kickball, whiffle ball and a fall baseball league as well.

10) Old Business : None

11) New Business: None

12) Adjourn: Motioned by Steidemann, seconded by Montalbano to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 7- 0. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Murphy  
Director of Public Services