

MIDLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2021  
MIDLAND CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
7:00 P.M.

PROPOSED MINUTES

- 1) Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairperson Nancy Carney.

\*\*Pledge of Allegiance\*\*

- 2) Roll Call:

- a. MEMBERS PRESENT: Billotti, Carlson, Carney, Lemon, Rankin, Steidemann, Varela
- b. MEMBERS ABSENT: Rice
- c. OTHERS PRESENT Marcie Post, Assistant Director of Public Services

- 3) Minutes of December 1, 2020: Lemon motioned, Carlson seconded to receive minutes of the meeting of December 1, 2020. Motion passed 7-0.

- 4) Call to Audience: None

- 5) City of Midland Boards & Commission Code of Ethics: Murphy shared the new Midland Code of Conduct for City Council and all Boards & Commissions, briefly reviewing the content of the plan. All members of Council and Boards & Commissions must review and sign a form acknowledging receipt of the new Code.

- 6) Michigan Recreation & Park Association Award for Grove Park: Post shared an exciting award the City received from the Michigan Recreation and Park Association (mParks) for the design of Grove Park. The award was presented to the City at mPark's annual conference that was held virtually in February.

- 7) Preliminary Plan for 2021 Operations at Plymouth Pool: Post reported that the City plans to open Plymouth Pool this summer for lap and open swim. Current COVID-19 pandemic guidelines allow for 50% capacity for up to 200 people at Plymouth Pool. Pre-registration will be required for open and lap swim for City of Midland residents only. Post shared that drop-in by residents and non-residents will be available if sessions do not meet capacity. Post is still working to determine whether swim lessons will be an option under pandemic guidelines and that decision will be announced at a later date. Post also shared that she is working with West Midland Family Center and the Midland Country Club on best practices so we are consistent with other local outdoor swim venues.

- 8) Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant request for Emerson Riverfront Phase II: Murphy reviewed the Upper Emerson Park riverfront renovation. She gave an overview of phase I funded by a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant received in 2017, which includes the overlook, an accessible fishing dock and a boardwalk along the riverfront, a floating dock for access from the river and an accessible pathway connecting the site to the Rail Trail. Murphy then reviewed the proposed phase II of the project that includes installation of a new hand rail along the seawall, adding overlooks and fishing areas at the

confluence of Sturgeon Creek and the Tittabawassee River, additional accessible pathway connections to the Rail Trail and addition of seating and picnic areas throughout the green space. Murphy stated the estimated cost is \$430,000 but the design is still under review so this cost could change. Staff's plan is to apply for a second Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant for 75% of the project cost up to the grant maximum of \$300,000 with the 25% match and remaining expenses coming from the City's Parks Capital budget and the Riverfront Clearing project.

In order to apply for the MNRTF grant, the Parks & Recreation Commission must offer a motion of support, and a public hearing must be held at the City Council level, resulting in a formal resolution of support from the Council. Council will hear the matter at their March 22 meeting. Murphy requested a motion of support from the Parks & Recreation Commission to move forward with this grant application.

Rankin motioned to support the grant application for phase II of the Upper Emerson Park riverfront renovation project. Steidemann seconded the motion and the motion passed 7-0.

#### 9) Project Reports

- a. Recreation update: Post gave an update on City Forest, noting that it was not programmed this year but rather made available for passive recreation. The Chalet was closed with portable restrooms placed on site, the sled hill was groomed, and the ice rink and trails were also groomed to be sure people were safe using these areas. Post shared that the Cardboard Sled Races were not held this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Post shared that MSA has published their summer league flyer for 2021 for adult softball. Post reported that the Grand Experience sold out in 4 days this year with a wait list of interested travelers. She shared that the City is considering a second trip the last week of October if there is enough interest.
- b. Parks & Recreation Master Plan update: Murphy shared that the 2021-2025 Parks & Recreation Master Plan has been submitted to the State and the City is now eligible again to apply for grants through the Department of Natural Resources. Murphy applauded the amount of public input that went into the plan with over 1,300 online surveys completed and 40 comments made during the 30-day plan review. Murphy also presented the plan to the Planning Commission and noted that the plan will coordinate the City's broader City Modern plan in the future.

10) Old Business : None

11) New Business: None

12) Adjourn: Motioned by Carlson, seconded by Varela to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 7 – 0. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Murphy  
Director of Public Services