

Approved 10.10.22

**CITY OF WIXOM
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, July 11, 2022
6:00 p.m. Wixom Community Center**

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN:

ROLL CALL: John O'Brien, Chairman
Maryann Chupa
Tom Menzies
Peggy VanSickle

CITY STAFF:
Community Services Director: Deanna Magee
Parks & Recreation Supervisor: Kathy Venegas
Recording Secretary: Mona Freiburger

GUESTS: Drew Benson, Assistant City Manager
Andrea Dickson, Library Director

Absent: Lisa Ferrari, Jeff Winters

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Quorum was met.

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

No changes or additions to the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 11, 2022

MOTION by Board Member Menzies and second by Board Member VanSickle to approve the April 11, 2022, minutes, as amended.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

All in favor.
Motion passes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: See Rules of Conduct listed at the end of Agenda

None

TABLED MOTIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. P&R and DDA joint Facility Design Meeting Update on Playground

Director Magee invited Library Director Dickson along with Assistant City Manager Benson for an update regarding the Parks and Recreation and DDA joint facility design meeting on the playground. Commissioner Winters, from Parks and Recreation, has been attending the design committee meetings. The usual attendees at the facility design meetings for the playground include Director Magee, Director Dickson, Commissioner Winters and three to four DDA Board Members.

To summarize, Parks and Recreation will be using approximately \$75,000 of block grant monies and the DDA will contribute approximately \$100,000 to \$120,000.

The committee was created because DDA has a different vision in what they would like to see in the playground. Through the committee process, Parks and Recreation, the DDA and Library would like to come to a decision on a design for the playground.

In attending the DDA meetings, some of the DDA members would like a "destination" playground. The Parks and Recreation's initial thought was to replace the playground that was, initially, built with CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding with a nice, and functional playground for ages 2 to 10; not as big as the Gilbert Willis playground. The DDA, with their funding would like something bigger.

Director Dickson commented she did make clear that the courtyard is used for programming, regularly, and weekly story times. Director Magee educated the DDA in the design and building process.

Assistant City Director Benson indicated the DDA has been in discussion regarding the playground design for a while. The DDA sketched out everything they could imagine that could be done on city hall campus, etc. The DDA budgeted approximately \$200,000 to date; the number could possibly increase. The DDA is looking for the biggest square footage, as possible. This project could pursue grant funding, if we take our time and do this correctly.

There was additional discussion among the Parks and Recreation Commissioners regarding a "destination" playground as a fully inclusive playground for children who have mobility issues, different abilities intellectually and physically. A "theme" was also discussed and cautioned as far as it may grow old quickly. Playground companies, bathrooms, site prep, landscaping design, business and community interest and involvement, public survey, and park footprint were also topics of discussion.

Assistant City Director Benson indicated a project tracking sheet was created for the DDA to talk about the steps, timeline, etc. The next step would be to bring together the Parks and Recreation Commission, library, and the DDA to discuss soliciting public input, an RFP for the design and expense, and actual square footage of park,

2. Schedule Joint Meeting with DDA

The next meeting for the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for September 12, 2022. A date of September 12, 2022 was discussed as a possible date for the P&R, DDA and library joint meeting for retaining a firm, additional input and discussion.

3. Review of Events:

- Concerts/Family Fun Nights

Supervisor Venegas commented the concerts have been very successful. There is a huge crowd every week. On the website, the bands playing and food trucks are linked to their pages each week. The web traffic is up approximately 200% in the day before and the day of the concerts compared to the beginning of the week. It is exciting to see people are figuring this out. Approximately 750 to 850 attend a regular concert each week. Family fun nights are crowded and exceedingly successful.

- Lite the Nite

Lite the Nite was a smaller crowd than Lite the Nite in 2019, the last time there were fireworks at this event, last year the fireworks were at the BBQ & Blues event.. People have figured out they can watch the fireworks from their porches. The beer tent was very successful. There is an interview in the Spinal Column, as well.

Supervisor Venegas indicated a public relations push for Parks and Recreation was discussed amongst the staff. There seems to be a little bit of confusion about the sponsorship of the events. Staff will start promoting the fact that the City of Wixom, Parks and Recreation is sponsoring these events which includes the banners, signage and the announcements at the events.

Unfortunately, the Spinal Column led to believe the concerts are DDA events. Supervisor Venegas indicated she spoke with the editor of the Spinal Column. There was a big article for the 4th of July. Parks and Recreation staff decided to up their social media on what is happening in the City.

Assistant City Manager Benson commented part of a longer term goal may be to have cross promotions such as "our friends at the DDA are doing this; the library is doing this" We may be able to get more people to come to these events. An example, part of the cost sharing of the DDA, so they can contribute a portion for downtown events. It is about bringing people and bringing businesses to create moments of memories for people.

Director Magee commented a Parks and Recreation page, specifically, where people can go to that page; some of it is channeled through the City but that is not working as well. Instagram and TikTok was also mentioned as avenues for social media.

4. Walking Path at Civic Center

Director Magee indicated the walking path around Civic Center is being used quite a bit and very popular. It is a nice to see people using the path and it is all positive.

5. Michigan Airline Trail - Phase II <http://www.miairlinetrail.com/>

Director Magee commented the Michigan Air Line Trail, Phase II, is coming along quickly, and moving faster than planned. There was some hold up with irrigation. The end of July is approximate date for completion.

People are using the Trail. They are using the Gibson parking lot to get on their bikes.

Assistant City Manager Benson commented parking and staging, from an economic development aspect, installing a parking lot. Lot is city owned. This is a huge priority.

For updates, information is available at the Michigan Air Line Trail website. Mr. Hensler, trail manager, is very good about posting videos regarding the trail and the construction schedule.

A pavilion is going to be installed at Mack Park along with decorative fencing, landscaping and a crosswalk. Three or four tables will be underneath the pavilion.

6. Disc Golf Course at Gilbert Willis Park - Phase II Design Done

Director Magee commented disc golf is very popular; people are playing disc golf daily. Phase II design is completed. DPW has to remove brush. Supervisor Venegas has the signage for final yardage, and the tee pads, as well.

Chairman O'Brien recommended to promote to the residents about the disc golf course to make sure that they see another project that came out of Parks and Recreation.

7. Gilbert Willis Tennis Court Fence Replacement Complete

Director Magee indicated the fence replacement is being completed. There are a couple of sections that need to be finished at the base of the pickleball courts.

Supervisor Venegas commented a pickleball league was created with 10 teams (20 people) for June. For July, there are 12 teams (24 people). There are four courts; everybody plays two matches per night. This league has been very successful; people are having a lot of fun.

INFORMATION:

- 2022 Sponsorship Program

Director Magee indicated the sponsorship program did very well. There was approximately \$75,000 in sponsorship monies for Parks and Recreation events. It is nice to see community support is back.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Chupa commented the concerts have been really good; she has enjoyed them and looks forward to the concerts.

Assistant City Manager Benson inquired about the bike rack installation. Director Magee indicated the bike racks have been installed; the bike racks by Backyard Coney were pulled because of the light construction but they will go back in.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Supervisor Venegas commented Mr. John Hensler, was hired by Parks and Recreation to take some professional photos of the parks and some of the different amenities to use on social media and the website.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Board Member Menzies and second by Board Member Chupa to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED

All in favor.

Motion passes.