

**CITY OF WIXOM
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, October 10, 2022
6:00 p.m. Wixom Community Center**

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN:

ROLL CALL:

Maryann Chupa
Alicia Churilla
Lisa Ferrari
Tom Menzies
Peggy VanSickle
Jeff Winters

CITY STAFF:

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

GUESTS: Dan Williams

Absent: John O'Brien

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Quorum was met.

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Two changes:

- Approval of 2023 Meeting Schedule
- Discussion of park development on the property across from Drafting Table

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Commissioner VanSickle and second by Commissioner Winters to approve the July 11, 2022 and September 12, 2022 Minutes, as presented.

VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED

All in favor.
Motion passes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Introduction of new Commissioner Alicia Churilla
Director Magee introduced Commissioner Alicia Churilla. Commissioner Churilla indicated she has lived in Wixom since she was very young. She graduated from Michigan State University a year ago.

Dan Williams was introduced by Commissioner Menzies. Mr. Williams indicated he has been living in Wixom for over 30 years and raised his family in Wixom. He recently retired after 50 years in the food industry. Mr. Williams has learned more about the community and is interested in becoming a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

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

None

TABLED MOTIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Update on P&R, DDA, Library Joint meeting on Playground Design

Director Magee commented there was a joint meeting with Parks and Recreation, the DDA and the Library to discuss the playground design behind the civic center. Each group did a presentation. Supervisor Venegas did a nice job on the Parks and Recreation presentation. The meeting was held to discuss the opinions of the groups for the project. Originally, this project was a Parks and Recreation project with block grant funds. The DDA contacted the Parks and Recreation department to fund additional amounts for this project. The intent of the meeting was to discuss the design, the age brackets, etc. The discussion and conversations led to getting three different sizes for playgrounds and space. There will be three different estimates for playground designs for \$100K, \$200K and \$300K. There was always a plan to develop and integrate benches, landscaping, etc., along the walking path.

Commissioner Menzies commented the plan will take several phases. The overall presentation and plan will be good for the City.

Director Magee indicated there were very good questions that were brought up especially by the Library and Parks and Recreation as far as the landscaping including the hill, trees and installing retaining walls versus the play structure. The Library had a good point indicating the people who use the tot lot like the shade and have lunch there.

Director Magee commented the Parks and Recreation master plan is due next year and the Commission encouraged the DDA to use the public input sessions as a tool for input from the community to see what the residents would like to see in this area.

Commissioner VanSickle commented a good way for the DDA to use their funds, possibly, is for a restroom in this general area. Director Magee stated there are many options for a design, landscaping and a restroom. The amount of people that use the walking path, currently, is amazing.

2. Review of Events:

- Barkin' in the Park

Supervisor Venegas commented this was a fun event. There was a great turnout and awesome weather. There were approximately 600 people who attended this event which was held at Gilbert Willis Park. There were many vendors. A Rock and Roll Canine dog show was held. There was amazing participation in the contests this year including a costume contest and a talent contest for the pets. There were 12 to 15 pets who participated in each of those events. Premier Pet Supply on Grand River in Novi was the sponsor for this event.

- Family Glo Night

This event was held on September 22, 2022. Supervisor Venegas commented Family Glo Night was a fun event. Oakland County had a grant to have a mini golf and some glow games. There were about 100 people in attendance. It was a free event for Parks and Recreation and for the participants at the community center. There were some snacks. Participants were excited about the event. There were glow necklace and mini golf. Everyone had a fun, and good time. This event may be held, again, in the near future.

- Fall Fest

Supervisor Venegas commented this was an awesome event and one of the best ones. Everything was back the way it was before COVID. There were great volunteers including fifteen kids from the National Honor Society to help on the trails. It is a full day for staff but it is a really fun day.

The event was sold out with approximately 408 participants. 80% of the participants came in costume. The food and donut vendors did great.

Commissioner Menzies commented DPW did an awesome job.

3. Upcoming Events

- Tree Lighting - Friday, December 2, 2022 (5 pm to 11 pm)

Director Magee indicated the Tree Lighting event will take place on Friday, December 2, 2022 and will be similar to the past Tree Lighting events.

Supervisor Venegas commented Atomic Radio band is booked for the tree lighting event this year. Atomic Radio was one of the first bands who performed for the summer concerts. The band will be performing from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. There will be ice sculptures and an ice carving contest similar to last year. There will be a QR code to vote online for your favorite. There will also be food vendors.

The event will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. with Santa and his reindeer appearing at 6:30 p.m. Crafts for the kids will be held in the library. There will also be face painting along with Santa in the community center.

Volunteers will be needed this year. The Library is having some staffing issues and may need help with the kids' crafts.

4. Walking path at Civic Center completed. Landscaping & Amenities Spring 2023

Director Magee commented this topic was covered a little bit earlier at this meeting. The Commission should expect to see some sketches before spring time. Plans will be forthcoming.

5. Michigan Air Line Trail - Phase II

Director Magee indicated the HAWK signal is scheduled to be installed either this week or next week. The Road Commission would only approve the HAWK signal. The signal is similar to the one on Haggerty and another signal on Pontiac Trail. Director Magee encouraged the Commission to go on the Michigan Air Line Trail site to read the information about the crossings and how the signal works. There will be a training process.

Phase II, Michigan Air Line Trail is almost completed. The feedback is good and people are using the Trail.

Mr. Williams asked if there would be a sign to identify the Air Line Trail going to the South Lyon Trail. Director Magee indicated there will be additional signage to be installed.

- Shelter Design

Director Magee commented there were a few sketches of the shelter design included in the Commission packet. The shelter has been ordered with the amenities. The shelter will take approximately three to four months to come in. The Ralph Wilson Foundation Fund is paying for the shelter along with some extra money from Phase I of the trail.

The City is negotiating the two properties next to Mack Park. The goal is either to expand the park space or convert to new businesses with a modern look to go with the park.

- Town Clock

Director Magee indicated a new clock has been ordered for Mack Park. The current clock has not worked for two years. It will take approximately a year for the new clock to come in.

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

Director Magee stated DPW is cutting the brush on the second phase of the disc golf sector. The mapping has been completed but DPW has had a shortage of staff. Oakland County purchased a new, huge brush cutter and DPW will borrow this machine to speed up the process.

Director Magee indicated Commissioner Menzies volunteered to head up a group of ASP volunteers for a day to help clean up the branches on the path.

7. Park Development

Director Magee commented she was approached this morning by the DDA regarding the parcel across the street from the Drafting Table. This area is city property. Parks and Recreation has never included this piece of property in the master plan because it has not been usable for a park which includes catch basins and sewer lines. The area may not be developable. DDA is looking to get a design for this area or if it is even feasible for a corner park to have some avenues with the Trail for additional seating space. The DDA is planning to do research on it and come up with a rendering.

INFORMATION:

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Chupa commented Supervisor Venegas, along with Cindy, did a fantastic job with the pickleball program this summer. The net at the end was wonderful. The net did make a big difference. Supervisor Venegas indicated they are hoping the league director will come back and run the league again next summer.

Commissioner Chupa indicated the pickleball program was great for beginners; people were not competitive in the league. The participants were wonderful and friendly.

Commissioner Ferrari inquired if there were any plans for the tennis court surface at Gunnar Mettala which has some cracks. Director Magee agreed there were some cracks on the courts. The courts were repaved two years ago. She has left several messages to the contractor but they have not received any responses back. It is supposed to be a five year surface.

Commissioner Chupa commented the Parks and Recreation staff does an excellent job with the programs and concerts.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Supervisor Venegas commented they will be working on the 2023 calendar. They will be sending out sponsorship letters next year in February or early March which will include the new businesses on Wixom Road.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Commissioner VanSickle and second by Commissioner Ferrari to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED

All in favor.

Motion passes.