

**CITY OF WIXOM
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, January 9, 2023
6:00 p.m. Wixom Community Center**

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN:

ROLL CALL: John O'Brien, Chairman
Maryann Chupa
Alicia Churilla
Tom Menzies
Peggy VanSickle
Dan Williams
Jeff Winters

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

GUESTS: None

Absent: Lisa Ferrari

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Quorum was met.

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

No changes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Commissioner Menzies and second by Commissioner VanSickle to approve the October 10 2022, minutes, as presented.

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. Update on Playground Design

Director Magee indicated there have been some joint meetings with the DDA and Library on the playground design. From those meetings, Director Magee agreed to get three proposals ranging from \$100K, \$200K and \$300K. The vendor is Miracle Equipment, who Parks and Recreation worked with for Gilbert Willis Park. Director Magee gave each Commissioner the proposals in their meeting packet, which also includes comments from the DDA.

Director Magee asked the Commissioners for their feedback and comments regarding the proposals.

Initially, for the playground, block grant money was set aside in the amount of \$75K with \$25K from the City's general fund. Since that time, the DDA has paid off their debt and now receiving monies. The Civic complex is within the DDA, and they would like to set aside monies towards properties and investigate the options of contributing to this playground at the different funding levels.

During the discussion, it was the consensus of the Commissioners that a "theme" was not a good idea, those go in and out. The playground will incorporate benches and bike racks. Fencing eliminates the openness and the attractiveness to a playground, but could be used for safety reasons such as near the parking lot and sidewalk. Split rail fencing instead of cyclone fencing was recommended for openness.

The playground development would be dependent upon the footprint and amount of green space. Developing the parking in phases was also suggested by the Commission. Director Magee commented the plans could interchange the equipment from the different plans. The park would be ADA complaint. Also the options would be looked at to include the senior population including an ADA swing.

The concerns of the library for a quiet zone were also brought up in the discussion. They would like to be able to utilize the playground and have a nice structure. We are looking for the playground to be functional, and provide a structure that is good for the residents of Wixom.

The plan for \$200K would be targeted; the footprint would also dictate on what could be built without spending so much money on site development.

2. Approval of 2023 Events & Activities Calendar

MOTION by Commissioner Menzies and second by Commissioner Winters to approve the 2023 Events and Activities Calendar.

VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED

All in favor.

Motion passes.

3. Review of Events:

- Tree lighting

Director Magee indicated the Tree Lighting event went really well. There were a lot of people in attendance. The weather was 45 degrees outside; the ice sculptures did not last long. For next year, the possibility of having two carriage rides would be looked at because the lines do get long. Overall, it was nice; a lot of people attended the tree lighting, had dinner downtown and came back to the tent. It was a nice community event.

Supervisor Venegas commented it takes about five years for an event to catch on, and to train people in the programs. People know when to attend, and know how the event works such as where to park and where Santa is. There was a lot of chatter on Facebook and social media regarding the event and people were excited.

In terms of the restaurant attendance during the tree lighting event, they were crowded than a normal Friday night and during the other events as well.

Supervisor Venegas indicated there were approximately 5,000 people onsite the night of the tree lighting, which spreads over six hours. One thing that was noticed, the crowds start emptying about 10 p.m., Santa leaves and all of the indoor activities are finished by 9:00 p.m. Next year, there is a thought of shortening the event until 10 p.m.

Director Magee indicated the tree lighting event is much more successful than the holiday market event which was held in the past.

4. Upcoming Events:

- Skate Nights (January 5 - February 23) 5 - 8 pm

Skate Nights have been delayed because of the weather and lack of snow.

- Daddy/Daughter Dance - February 9

Supervisor Venegas commented the Daddy/Daughter Dance is full with a waiting list. This event sold out within two days. For planning purposes, there is room for 75 daughters/girls and then the Dads that come along with the girls. This year, the registration was upped to 100 girls. This event is for Wixom residents only. The cost for the event is \$30 for the couples (Daughter/Dad), and \$10 for each additional girl.

- Easter Egg Hunt & Bunny Fun - April 2

- Mother/Son Dance - May 11

Director Magee indicated this event was not held for a while but has been added back in. Supervisor Venegas commented they plan to duplicate the Daddy/Daughter dance, so they are planning on registering 100 boys with their Moms. The advertising is not set up yet. Part of the reason this event was not held is because it was not well attended as the Daddy/Daughter dance. The reason could be is that it was held in the fall, previously; it is a busy sports season. This event will be held around Mother's Day.

Director Magee also commented the community is changing with the new developments, and seeing a big surge of children coming back to the community.

- Summer Concerts - June 1 - August 17

Director Magee stated the summer concerts are very popular.

5. Walking Path at Civic Center complete. Landscaping & Amenities Spring 2023

Director Magee stated the walking path is completed. This was a great project and the path is used all of the time.

6. Grant Applications Submittal

Director Magee indicated they are submitting a couple of grant applications through Oakland County, which includes a SPARK grant and Oakland County Senior Enhancement Infrastructure.

Director Magee has applied for the senior center grant to do improvements within the inside, outside, landscaping, etc. The City is planning on applying for two SPARK grants. One of the SPARK grants would include the playground, an additional walking path behind the current walking path as well as a restroom facility. The other grant is for Gunnar Mettala Park. There is a capital plan replacement of the restrooms as well as the two pavilions; with the capital money budgeted, there is enough for a 50% match. This would also lead into Supervisor Venegas' project who is researching a fitness area which would include a variety of fitness stations for adults/children right off of the bike path. This would be in addition to Gunnar Mettala.

- Oakland County Senior Center Improvements

Supervisor Venegas stated she was at a Royal Oak park which had a playground/fitness area created by a company, KOMPAN. She thought it would be an awesome idea to have off of the bike path at Gunnar Mettala park. There is a quote from KOMPAN, which the quote is pie in the sky, and would be used for purposes of writing the SPARK grant. KOMPAN, specifically, installs the fitness equipment. The fitness areas are being installed everywhere. This would be a great addition to the park which would be very accessible and would be included in the SPARK grant.

Director Magee states this is an idea, and wanted to approach the Commission to see if this would be something that they feel could be used in the community.

The Commissioners thought it was a good idea, especially if it is visible from the bike path or signage indicating to try the fitness circuit.

- Spark Grant 1 - Civic Center (playground, additional walking path, restrooms, water feature)
- Spark Grant II - GM Park Improvements - (Pavilions (2), restrooms, fitness course, amenities, court restoration)

7. Disc Golf Course at Gilbert Willis Park - Phase II Design done. DPW to complete Clearing for course in Spring.

Disc golf is doing well at Gilbert Willis Park. For Phase 2, we are awaiting DPW to clear brush this winter. Supervisor Venegas has gone to the lengths of getting signs made with footage. Part of the delay of DPW is locating equipment that is easy to brush cut. DPW has worked out an agreement with Oakland County to use some of their equipment.

INFORMATION:

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Menzies asked if the traffic is impacted by the new lights, and if the community understands the meaning of the blinking red. If the light is blinking red, you stop; make sure it is clear and go. There is instruction online to see how the lights operate.

Commissioner Menzies stated Commissioner Williams had helped with the nature center clean-up along with the Boy Scouts. They will be called back in the Spring.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Supervisor Venegas indicated the wine event has been on hold and replaced by the wine bus tour. The wine bus tour was very well received. The buses available at this time for the wine bus tour are People's Express and Oakland County. People's Express won't do tours out of the area. Oakland County, in the foreseeable future, is not running bus trips. A vendor cannot be found for the wine tasting event.

The next option would be for the wine tour is a limousine bus, party bus or a charter bus, but those options are expensive and cost prohibitive. Right now, we are on a holding pattern.

Director Magee commented the Michigan Air Line Trail is almost completed; just a few things left including signage. The pavilion should be completed in April.

Chairman O'Brien thanked everyone for their contributions, and we are making progress.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Commissioner Menzies and seconded by Commissioner Winters to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED

All in favor.

Motion passes.