

**CITY OF WIXOM
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, January 8, 2024
6:00 p.m. Wixom Community Center**

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN:

ROLL CALL: John O'Brien, Chairman
Maryann Chupa
Lisa Ferrari
Tom Menzies
Shondra Okimura
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: Alicia Churilla

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 Ferrari to approve the October 9, 2023, minutes, as presented.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

All in favor.
Motion passes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

None

TABLED MOTIONS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Master Plan 2024-2029 Status: Completed and approved by City Council

Director Magee updated the Commission regarding the Master Plan. The Master Plan was recommended to City Council; City Council approved the Master Plan. The Master Plan will be updated to the DNR next week. All positive comments from the City Council at the Meeting on December 12, 2023.

2. Gibson Parking Lot Paving – Completed

Gibson Parking Lot project has been completed as well as the roadway in-- the park.

3. Gunnar Mettala Pickleball Courts – Delayed due to weather until Spring

The pickleball courts at Gunnar Mettala Park is delayed due to the weather until Spring. They ran into some problems with the soils and will be a little bit more complicated than, originally, planned due to the wetness of the property. This will add an additional \$30,000 to the project. When completed, we will have a pickleball court, and two pavilions. Bids will go out in February for the restrooms and the pavilions. Changes will be coming through the summer.

4. Mack Park Pavilion Update – Partial Structure Installed

Mack Park Pavilion structure is up. It is delayed a bit because of the weather but as soon as Spring arrives, the structure will go up with the new City clock and all the amenities including the picnic tables, drinking fountain, etc. When completed, the park will be nice.

5. Tot Lot Playground Project DDA Budgeted \$250,000 towards the project for 2023-24

The DDA has budgeted \$250,000 towards the project for 2023-24. Parks and Recreation has \$75,000 of CDGB funds and \$25,000 of capital money. Three designs were given to the Commission. We will establish a total overall budget and new prices will be updated. We will look at both options of installation and community build. A community build would take at least three days even in the smaller footprint. An email from Director Magee will be sent with the install costs, community build costs and the projected timeline.

6. Michigan Airline Trail Application for Pure Michigan Trail Town to DNR

In the packet is information regarding the Michigan Air Line Trail application. It is interesting in that you become a trail town. The application will be going in soon which includes a video, voice over and history. The video will be posted on the Michigan Air Line site.

7. Oakland County RAPP Grant Application submitted for \$1,500 Mobile Units

Supervisor Venegas commented Oakland County offers an opportunity for Parks and Recreation to use their inflatables for our events. There is a grant available each year which we were able to apply for three different dates. This amounts to \$1,500 worth of savings for Parks and Recreation. This is a total turnkey with Oakland County which works well for everyone.

8. New Winter Gala Event

Supervisor Venegas indicated she was hoping to get input from the Commission for the name of this event. Her vision for this event in the long term will be a little bit bigger than to start this year. Supervisor Venegas commented she would love to do a gala where it is a little big fancy which would include a silent auction, and some raffles to raise money for a cause. There would be a charge to attend the event for a nice night out which would include dinner/heavy appetizers, cocktails, entertainment (dinner music, dancing), silent auction and raffles for a good cause. The timeframe would be 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Commission agreed the term “gala” doesn’t have to imply black tie and cocktail attire could be indicated on the ticket.

Supervisor Venegas indicated she would be happy to take suggestions for the fundraising cause. She commented that over the holidays a group called McKinney Vento Program was brought to her attention regarding a charity effort. The mission of the McKinney Vento Program is to continue education for homeless children and supply the resources that is needed.

Chairman O’Brien agreed to keep the charity local. He commented another aspect would be to include wine or bourbon tasting to draw people to attend. Supervisor Venegas commented there will be cocktails/bar, food will be local. Supervisor Venegas indicated she may ask Mark Garmo from Wixom Liquor to do some kind of bourbon tasting.

The event is on the calendar for March 8th. The price for tickets would be \$50 per person. The thought is that each ticket holder would receive two drink tickets and then a cash bar, thereafter. The goal is to bring an adult event back.

The Commission agreed that calling the event a “gala” is not a bad idea.

9. Summer Concert Contract – Approved 2024-2026

Director Magee commented the summer concert series is all set. JAG was awarded the contract for three years with an option of two years. JAG served the Commission well within the budget and Parks and Recreation is happy to have them back.

10. Review of Events

- Tree lighting

Director Magee commented the weather wasn’t the best. She asked who had attended the tree lighting. During the countdown, they went to turn on the lights and the lights did not come on; never happened before. It had rained the whole day, DPW tested the lights all week to make sure it was working. The rain had gotten to the circuits. After working on the lights for

approximately five minutes, the lights did turn on. The weather wasn't like last year, but it was a good event; the library was open, and there were different craft stations.

There is a video on the website. Wixom contributes to Western Oakland County Cable Authority, and, in turn, we subsidize the two studios with the school. In return, they come and do videos of our events.

There was a discussion regarding creating a Parks and Recreation web page. The Commission motioned and voted to agree to create a Facebook webpage for Parks and Recreation.

MOTION by Commissioner Ferrari and second by Commissioner Menzies to approve for the creation of a Parks and Recreation Facebook web page for their events, concerts, updates, etc.

VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED

All in favor.
Motion passes.

11. Upcoming Events:

- Skate Nights – Thursday in January and February – weather permitting
- Daddy Daughter Dance – February 8
- Easter Egg Hunt & Bunny Fun – March 24
- Mother/Son Dance – May 9
- Summer Concerts Begin – June 6
- Volunteer Appreciation Picnic – June 13

12. Disc Golf Course Phase II – Concrete Tees and Signage to be Completed in the Spring

Director Magee commented the clearing for the Disc Golf Course Phase II is complete. The concrete tees and signage will be finalized in the Spring.

INFORMATION:

- 2024 Calendar of Events

Director Magee indicated they are looking forward to the events on the calendar.

Supervisor Venegas stated the March event will be called Wixom Gala. Tickets will be sold soon.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

None

STAFF COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Van Sickle and second by Board Member Winters to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED

All in favor.

Motion passes.