

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

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN:

ROLL CALL:

Maryann Chupa
Alicia Churilla
Lisa Ferrari
Tom Menzies
Shondra Okimura
Jeff Winters

CITY STAFF:

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

GUESTS: None

Absent: John O'Brien; Peggy VanSickle; Dan Williams

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Quorum was met.

CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Commissioner Ferrari and second by Commissioner Winters to approve the January 8, 2024, 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. Gunnar Mettala Pickleball Courts – delayed due to weather until spring/summer.

Director Magee updated the Commission on the pickleball courts. The pickleball courts were not completed due to the weather last fall, but as soon as the weather breaks, the contractor will start resuming with the courts. There were some issues such as wet soil, and completion may take a bit longer, but it is moving along.

There will be a paddle holder installed at Gilbert Willis courts. There will also be a paddle holder installed at Gunnar Mettala courts.

The project should be completed by June/July, 2024.

2. Mack Park Pavilion Update – Partial Structure Installed

Director Magee stated the Mack Park Pavilion is taking a while; it is a DPW project. DPW has a worker on disability leave. In turn, a partial structure is installed.

3. Tot Lot Playground Project Council Approved \$325,000 (\$250,000 DDA & \$75,000 CDBG Funds)

Director Magee updated the Commission on the Tot Lot Playground Project. There have been a series of meetings between the library, DDA, etc. Director Magee presented the plan to the Commission. Quotes came in at \$324,999. Through all the meetings, the library personnel had good input. The surface area will be turf, although it is expensive. Complaints come in with the woodchips about the kids, dirt, etc. The plan was narrowed down to a simpler playground to install turf. There will be no community build on this project; DPW doesn't have the time for installation. The playground preparation and installation will be contracted out and will be turnkey. The playground installation should be completed in June, 2024.

4. Community Center Improvements: Bids and Specifications Completed. Bids Due April 24, 2024

Director Magee distributed the plans for the Community Center Improvements. There is a \$200,000.00 grant for the senior center. It is to be combined with five years of capital projects. All the HAVC units will be redone such as tile, LED lights, and the courtyard. There are a couple of other projects besides the community center for this bid. The idea is to make the whole area usable space for the seniors. The bids are out, and the results should be in by April 29th.

5. Gunnar Mettala Park Improvements: Restroom replacement, Pavilion Replacement, Shade Shelter for Trailhead, Walking Path Improvements. Bids to be let in June for August/September Construction.

Director Magee indicated the Gunnar Mettala Park improvements slated for this includes restrooms, pavilion replacement, and additional shade shelter by the trailhead. A fitness structure at Gunnar Mettala Park was also included in the 25/26 budget, but we will know when the budget is approved by City Council, is a fitness structure. Some funding from Ralph Wilson Foundation has been applied for, and if approved, the fitness structure will be installed in 2025/26. Applicable signage will be installed, such as "work out at your own risk".

Director Magee stated the park facilities would not be shut down until Labor Day. The bids will take approximately two months to receive. Temporary restrooms will be there when the restrooms are torn out.

Director Magee commented some repairs are being made to the habitat boardwalk. There is \$100,000.00 for this project.

The next project, which is about two years out, will be for the second half of the walking path and back; block grant money will be used.

Commissioner Menzies ask if the grown-out timberland could be cut down to the habitat boardwalk.

Director Magee stated the budget meeting is slated for next Tuesday with City Council.

6. Review of Events:

- Daddy/Daughter Dance

Supervisor Venegas indicated the Daddy/Daughter Dance was sold out and very successful. No changes to the event this year. Over the last couple of years, a new photobooth item comes in. It is not the typical photobooth, but it is a rotating platform with a camera to do videos on your phone. The photobooth is rented from a Wixom resident, and the kids love it. The photobooth will be rented for the Mother/Son dance, as well.

Both dances are limited to Wixom residents only because the dances fill up quickly.

- Wixom Gala

The First Annual Wixom Gala was held. Director Magee thanked those people who attended. For the raffles, \$575 was raised and donated to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Program in Wixom.

Commissioner Menzies stated there was a lot of sports things for the raffles; he suggested to include theater tickets, Red Wings tickets., etc. Commissioner Menzies commented he was not being critical; this was a nice event, the food was good, and it was a good evening.

Director Magee commented this was a last-minute event and was a win/win situation. This was the first year and next year will just get better.

Supervisor Venegas indicated she went to the Walled Lake School Board meeting last Thursday, did a presentation of the giant check for \$575 to Tammy, McKinney-Vento Homeless Program, in the Walled Lake Schools.

- Easter Egg Hunt

Director Magee indicated there were approximately 400 kids who attended this event, which was a surprise because the weather was cold. There are a lot of people who are not Wixom residents at the event. The Recreation department is getting new recreational software that may be able to facilitate to control some of this. Nobody is turned away for this event. The new software will give us a little easier way to track and manage who attends. Signup for the Easter Egg Hunt and Panther Hunt are on the same day, only, but with this new software, it will give the ability to have people signup. The signup will have a QR code to be scanned in once they attend the event to receive a wristband, etc. It will be a big learning curve.

7. Upcoming Events:

- Mother/Son Dance – May 9
- Summer Concerts Begin – June 6 – August 22

Supervisor Venegas commented the web page for the summer concerts should be up this week. There were a couple of sponsors late getting their logos to the department.

- Volunteer Appreciation Picnic – June 13

Mark your calendars, electronic invites will be sent out for the volunteer appreciation picnic on June 13th. It is a nice event with good food, and raffle prizes.

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

The tees will be installed by DPW for the disc golf course phase II.

Supervisor Venegas commented there is a Wixom Business, Contour Graphix, who approached Parks and Recreation regarding doing some signage. Contour Graphix will give Supervisor Venegas some examples. Contour Graphix do vinyl signs, mostly, but also does vehicle wraps. The employees all play disc golf and are at the park, frequently. Parks and Recreation will look into getting a quote from Contour Graphix.

INFORMATION:

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Winters asked if there will be a pickleball league this year. Supervisor Venegas stated if someone volunteers to run the league, then yes. The person who ran the league previously has health issues.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Director Magee commented bids are out to demolish the two buildings by the trail, and Mack Park. The bids should be in by April 29th.

Supervisor Venegas thanked the Commission indicated she really appreciates the Commission, their interest and the programs of the Parks and Recreation. The Commission's voices are heard and makes a difference.

Director Magee indicated we are getting some projects completed. The walking path is constantly used. The walking path plans started about 20 years ago.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Commissioner Winters and second by Commissioner Chupa to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED

All in favor.

Motion passes.