

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
JULY 13, 2011
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall by Vice Chair Phillis Chirico and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call:

Present: Vice Chair Chirico, Commissioners Ryan Sweeder, Gwen Hulbert, and Carmen Siciliano. Absent: Commissioners Earl Wolf and John Pratt.

Motion by Siciliano, second by Sweeder, to excuse Commissioners Wolf and Pratt. Motion

Passed by voice vote.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Add item 8b. Park-Watchers. Add item 8c. Park Behavior.

Motion by Sweeder, second by Siciliano, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed by voice vote.

5. Audience Participation:

Vice Chair Chirico called for audience participation. There was none.

6. Approval of Parks & Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2011:

Motion by Siciliano, second by Sweeder, to approve the June 8, 2011, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

7. Action Items:

7a. Election of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

Motion by Siciliano, second by Sweeder, to table election of Commission Officers until the August 10th 2011 meeting. Motion passed by voice vote.

7b. Plans for Grand Opening

Commissioners reviewed the work sheet of possible action items re McCormick Park's Grand Opening. Commissioner Siciliano suggested the Commission could coordinate with the committee organizing the Walk Williamston Labor Day Event (September 5, 2011) possibly having the walk end in McCormick Park, to be followed by the Park's Grand Opening. Commissioners agreed this was a good option.

Commissioner Sweeder suggested Chairman Wolf could start contacting people he would like to honor at the Opening. Vice Chair Chirico suggested the school be contacted to see if a band was available on that day, and Commissioners Sweeder and Hulbert suggested a couple of sheet cakes and some punch (possibly donated?) would be a nice addition to the celebration.

Vice Chair Chirico suggested a notice be placed in the Williamston Enterprise, on the City's web site and in the Chamber of Commerce newsletter, prior to the Grand Opening.

Motion by Sweeder, second by Siciliano, to approve holding the McCormick Park Grand Opening on Labor Day and provide Chairman Wolf with the authority to contact people, and to finalize the details of the event at the Commissions August 10th meeting. Motion passed by voice vote.

7c. Williamston Recreation Advisory Council Appointments

After review of the applications submitted for appointment to the Williamston Recreation Advisory Council, Commissioner Sweeder suggested that applicants Kevin Smith and Curtis Zaleski be appointed as the official representatives to the Council from the City of Williamston, and the other three applicants -- Bryse Friess, Cheryl McCullough, and Brian Ferris -- be appointed as "at large" delegates to the Council. The "delegates at large" would serve one term only if more Townships send representatives to the Council.

Motion by Sweeder, second by Siciliano, to approve the applications of all five applicants, with Smith and Zaleski being appointed as the "official representatives" from the City of Williamston. Motion passed by voice vote.

7d. Creation of a "Memorial Options" listing, (costs, specifications, etc.)

Commissioners reviewed a McCormick Park Donation List and information provided by Chairman Wolf, detailing options, costs, and other data for placing memorials in the Park.

Motion by Sweeder, second by Siciliano, to approve the Primary Donation List as a Memorial Donation List for McCormick Park. Motion passed by voice vote.

8. Discussion Items:

8a. Tree Sculpture Moving Grant Update

Vice Chair Chirico stated a grant application to the Rotary may provide as much as \$7000 for moving the wood-carved sculptures in McCormick Park. She said the City should have the results of the grant application within two weeks.

Commissioners also reviewed a Go Green Youth Challenge Tree Planting Grant Application and Information Packet from the Eaton Conservation District Michigan Arbor Day Alliance Program. Vice Chair Chirico pointed out the application due date is August 18th, 2011. Commissioners Hulbert and Chirico volunteered to work on the grant application.

8b. Park Watchers in McCormick Park

Commissioners reviewed and discussed information re the City's new Park Watchers Project (under the Neighborhood Watch Program). This program enlists volunteers to be the City's "eyes and ears" during daytime hours and hopefully deters vandalism and violations of Park rules. Commissioner Hulbert added that she had prepared an article for the Enterprise asking for citizen volunteers for the watcher project, and had initially requested the volunteers wear some type of identification. Chairman Wolf pointed out in his correspondence that no "law enforcement authority" is to be conveyed to the volunteer-watchers. However, he agrees its important that some form of identification should be worn by the volunteers.

Commissioner Sweeder left the meeting at 7:43.

13. Adjournment:

Meeting Adjourned at 7:45pm due to lack of quorum.

THE PRECEDING MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF A PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING AND DO NOT REPRESENT A VERBATIM RECORD.

Respectfully Submitted by Gwen Hulbert, Gwen Hulbert, Secretary

Date Approved: _____