

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MARCH 24, 2010
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall by Chairman Earl Wolf and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call:

Chairman Earl Wolf, Vice Chair Phillis Chirico, Commissioners Gwen Hulbert, Ryan Sweeder, and Larry Wittrup. Absent: John Pratt.

Also Present: City Manager Tim Allard, City Clerk Holly Thompson, Community Development Director Heather McPhail, and citizen David Minnock.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Add item 9a. Update of McCormick Park Improvements, item 9c. Wood Sculpture Sealing Update, item 10b. Wood Chips from Howard Dahlstrom for Playground, and 10c. Turbine in Michigan.

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

5. Public Hearing- Park Plan Amendment:

Chairman Wolf opened the public hearing at 7:09 p.m.

Director McPhail went through the 2010-2014 Parks & Recreation Plan with the Commission and public.

Chairman Wolf called for public comment and/or written comments at this time and there were none.

Chairman Wolf closed the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

6. Audience Participation:

David Minnock of WKAR public broadcasting for MSU talked to the Commission about a proposed Pumpkin Festival. He asked if the Commission would be interested in supporting/endorsing the festival. Mr. Minnock explained that the festival would include blown glass pumpkins, a bonfire, Legend of Sleepy Hollow performance, pumpkin carving contest, among other activities.

The Parks Commission discussed the concept and felt that the festival should be delayed until 2011 but they were interested in pursuing the concept along with other service groups.

7. Approval of Parks & Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2010:

Motion by **Sweeder**, second by **Hulbert**, to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 10, 2010 as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

8. Action Items

8a. Parks & Recreation Plan Resolution for Approval:

Motion by **Sweeder**, second by **Hulbert**, to adopt the resolution recommending adoption of the City of Williamston 2010-2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan as presented. Yes: Sweeder, Wittrup, Chirico, Wolf, Hulbert. No: None. **Motion passed.**

9. Discussion Items

9a. Update of McCormick Park Improvements:

Plans for the McCormick Park improvements were shown to the Commission for their review.

The Commission discussed the location and viability of the sand volleyball courts. Manager Allard informed the Commission of St. Mary's Church's concerns with the volleyball courts.

The Commission discussed the parking lots and ideas for better parking solutions.

The work on McCormick Park is scheduled to start in May.

The Parks Commission wished to discourage high maintenance events going on in McCormick Park during construction.

9b. Update on Riverwalk Trail Extension grant status, including property owner feedback:

There is no grant that can be acquired until property can be obtained for the riverwalk trail.

9c. Wood Sculpture Sealing Update:

A recommendation for sealing the wood sculptures was distributed for review. Within the next 30 days the sculptures should be sealed. The Commission discussed the idea of cutting the sculptures off the stumps and relocating them in the park on concrete bases.

The Parks Commission recommended that the oils be purchased for sealing the wood sculptures and they will figure out who will be applying the oils at the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Hulbert will check with the wood carver that expressed interest in painting her wood sculpture before it is sealed.

11. Audience Participation:

Chairman Wolf called for public comment at this time and there was none.

12. Member Comments:

Commissioner Wittrup reported that the City Council has adopted the second reading of the Zoning Ordinance and the Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing on a prohibited businesses ordinance.

Commissioner Chirico commented that she has seen people looking at the statues but was perturbed that people are letting their children climb on the sculptures.

Commissioner Hulbert stated that she is glad that they are finally going out to bid for the McCormick Park project.

Chairman Wolf asked the City Manager to update the Commission on the 109 Building, N. Williamston Road project, and the Zoning Ordinance issue with an recreational vehicle on Spaulding and Quinlan Streets.

Manager Allard reported that the City is closing on the 109 building on Friday and explained the funding and project timeline. The North Williamston Road project is being done in two phases from the highway to Industrial Park Drive. The project is supposed to be completed by the end of the construction season. Manager Allard stated that the Planner took a look at the issue of the recreational vehicle and found it to be in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance.

13. Adjournment:

Meeting Adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Holly M. Thompson, City Clerk

Date Approved: _____