

**CITY OF WIXOM
49015 PONTIAC TRAIL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019**

ROLL CALL:

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. with the following individuals in attendance:

- COMMISSION:** John O'Brien (Chairman), Tom Marcucci, Kim Tyle, Jeff Winters and Mary Crause
- ABSENT:** Maryann Chupa (Excused), Lisa Ferrari (Excused), Tom Menzies (Excused) and Jason Martinez
- OTHERS:** Deanna Magee (Community Services Director) and Nancy Fisher (Recording Secretary)

Determination of a Quorum:

A quorum of the Parks and Recreation Commission was present for this meeting.

Agenda:

No additions or changes were made to the agenda.

Approval of the April 8, 2019 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes:

MOTION and seconded by Commissioners Marcucci and Winters to approve the April 8, 2019 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes.

VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED

Correspondence:

Appointment of Kim Tyle to Parks and Recreation Commission. Chairman O'Brien welcomed Commissioner Tyle.

Call to the Public:

There were no comments made by the public.

Tabled Motions:

There were no tabled motions.

Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business listed on the agenda for this meeting.

New Business:

- 1. OTC Playground Enhancement Status:**
 - a) **Community Build Set for September 11-14**
 - b) **Community Build Flyer**
 - c) **Community Build Volunteers**

Ms. Magee noted that the community build of the playground will take place on September 11-14, 2019 at Gilbert Willis Park. She has solicited help from companies that can provide large groups of volunteers

and has secured commitments from two companies thus far. There are 17 individuals signed up for Friday and another group of 11. She will do an additional call for volunteers in August, closer to the actual build date. Commissioner Tyle asked which days are already full for volunteers. Ms. Magee said that Friday afternoon is taken care of although she still needs volunteers for all the other dates and times. Chairman O'Brien asked about the start time. Ms. Magee noted they will commence work at 8 a.m. Personnel from Miracle Equipment will be onsite to organize the volunteers. There will not be much lag time and volunteers will be kept busy. Ms. Magee noted that she has sent out flyers and publicly posted them. She referred the Commissioners to the daily work schedule which is contained in tonight's meeting packet. The Department of Public Works (DPW) will be onsite doing site excavation and Parks & Recreation will provide a lunch and refreshments for the volunteers. Commissioner Crause said that she missed that email. Ms. Magee said that she would resend it to her. Ms. Magee noted that Councilman Rzeznik has forwarded the plea for volunteers to a couple companies. She noted that a lot of companies are searching for large projects such as this for their employees to collectively work on. Chairman O'Brien asked if there is a playground committee schedule. Ms. Magee noted that the equipment company took it from there after the committee chose the design, layout and location. She has not yet heard back from Mr. Dungan, however, he has been copied on the design & schedule. Ms. Magee asked the Commissioners to please let her know of any groups that may be interested in being involved in the community build of the playground.

2. Review of Events/Comments

▪ **Founders Day – Discuss direction of event – turn over to Wixom Historical Society**

Ms. Magee noted that Founders Day got rained out for the second year in a row. She would like to turn part of that event over to the Historical Society and have them run it, perhaps even on a smaller scale and see how that works. This event has been a bit of a struggle. Chairman O'Brien noted that it occurs early in the year. Ms. Magee said that the City has already committed the monies for Founders Day. However, maybe they could do another event later in the year. Staff could assist the Historical Society but Parks & Recreation would eventually like to transition the handling of the event to the Historical Society. She noted that Founders Day never ranked high against the other events in public surveys. Maybe the Historical Society can turn it into a nice, casual day; i.e., omit the stage and dancers instead of the kid-focused event it has been up until this point. Commissioner Winters asked whether the event is scheduled that early in the season for a particular reason. Ms. Magee noted that it has to do with the State; however, the timing competes with other events and graduations. Commissioner Tyle asked what the anniversary of the City's founding is and suggested moving Founders Day to coincide with that date. Ms. Magee said that she will have to research that but believes it may be May. She noted that the event involves a lot of staff time to put on the event and is has been rained out several times. Ms. Magee asked the Commissioners for their thoughts or objections with regard to transitioning this event to the Historical Society. Commissioner Winters said that he likes the idea of incorporating the Historical Society into the Founders Day event. Ms. Magee noted that if Parks & Recreation partners with the Historical Society one year, then the Historical Society can take it where they want it to go. Also, they would have more resources aligned with that particular event.

▪ **Family Fun Nights**

Ms. Magee noted that Family Fun Nite is always well received. Ascension has donated bike helmets which will be handed out on Sport Night. Commissioner Tyle noted that she will be taking her kids this week and will deliver the bike helmets at that time.

- **Summer Concerts**

Ms. Magee noted that the summer concerts and the BBQ and Blues are still to come.

- **Lite the Nite**

Chairman O'Brien noted that he heard positive comments about the fireworks and the band. Ms. Magee said that she thought that the fireworks were better than last year.

3. Projects:

- **Gibson Parking Lot – Phase 1 – Completed**

Ms. Magee noted that this was done with block grant funding.

- **Huron River Watershed project at Gibson Park – Plantings on June 8**

Ms. Magee noted that the plantings were accomplished through a grant and have now been completed.

- **Walking Path Around Civic Center – Deleted From Budget**

Ms. Magee stated that the walking path was proposed during budget hearings and has actually been in the City's plans since 1999. City Manager Brown put it back in the budget hoping to utilize the same contractors as for the Trail; however, it was removed. It is now in the budget as a block grant project for 2023. It will take 3 years of CDBG funds to do it.

- **Demolition of Munshaw House**

- **Relocation of the Munshaw (Hopkins) Barn**

Ms. Magee noted that this is the white house in front of the barn. It has not been used since the Historical Society moved its operations to the Gibson House and is very run down and dilapidated. What do the Commissioners think about demolishing it? She has obtained some preliminary quotes of \$9,000-\$10,000 for the demolition. Do they want to move the barn to Gibson Park? Commissioner Marcucci asked what will happen to the house next to the park. Will the City buy it? Ms. Magee said that home is not the City's property. She noted it will be difficult to restore the Munshaw House in its current condition. The goal was to place all historical structures in one park. The City has invested in other historical structures such as the Wire House Foundation repairs of and the ADA improvements to the Gibson House. Commissioner Marcucci said it would be good to move the barn although he does not know what kind of shape the house is in. Ms. Magee said that there are holes in the floor. There is no use for it since they have already put monies into the Gibson House and they have the Wire House. It is not on the historical register and was built in four different sections.

Commissioner Marcucci asked when it was built. Ms. Magee said she believes it was in the early 1900's; however, she will send him some information. The Gibson House was built in 1872. They took the original barn down there but they still have the foundation. They thought they could put a foundation in it, restrooms and use it as meeting space.

With the bike path right there, it is becoming a stopping point for a lot of people. They could put restrooms in for people using the path. Commissioner Winters said that he would like more information. Commissioner Crause said that if there was not already a Dairy Queen she would like to see someone turn it into an ice cream store which people can ride up to on their bicycles. Commissioner Tyle said that a ‘Michigan store’ concept could also work. Commissioner Marcucci noted that the house could be repaired but at what cost. Commissioner Crause wondered whether a private citizen would want to buy it cheaply and then fix it up. Ms. Magee feels that it could be turned into a green space or a pocket park. Any monies for that would come through the Parks & Recreation capital budget. If the monies are not currently allocated, they could eventually be if there is a desire to pursue it. Chairman O’Brien said it would be necessary to obtain a cost estimate for moving the barn. Commissioner Marcucci noted that it is difficult to find barn preservationists. Ms. Magee noted that due to the presence of streetlights, the barn would need to be dismantled and moved. The condition of the house is not good but the barn is probably salvageable. Commissioner Winters asked whether the barn would become the property of the Historical Society if it were moved. Ms. Magee said that it would remain the property of the City. Commissioner Marcucci said that he can provide an estimate for the barn’s footing work. The consensus of the Commissioners was that they would be in favor of relocating the barn; however, they require more information, particularly about the costs involved in doing so. Chairman O’Brien asked about the cost of the Founders Day event. Ms. Magee said it runs about \$7,500.

Chairman O’Brien asked whether the community has expressed any interest in pickle ball. Ms. Magee said that one of the City Councilmembers received a call from a resident. Commissioner Winters said pickle ball is basically table tennis that is half the size of a tennis court but uses a whiffle ball. It is very popular amongst retirees. Portable nets are available for purchase.

Commissioner Marcucci noted that the portable nets at Gilbert Gillis Park require repair. Chairman O’Brien noted that one of the basketball nets near the Civic Center needs replacement. Ms. Magee noted that she has reported the latter to the DPW.

- **Michigan Airline Trail Update**
- **<http://www.miairlinetrail.com>**

Ms. Magee noted that the target date for completion of the Trail is August and the work is going as planned. She is waiting on some road crossing items and will be meeting with the contractor this week. Commissioner Winters noted that the Trail website mentioned something about electronic crossings. Ms. Magee said that it will have lights. Chairman O’Brien said that there is one in Keego Harbor. Ms. Magee said that it will be in Walled Lake near the depot since that is where the Road Commission approved it. Commissioner Winters noted that it will be challenging to cross on Sundays. Commissioner Tyle said that she has seen bikers on the trail and it is exciting.

Ms. Magee noted that there is property situated behind Korex that the DNR is willing to sell for \$1; however first some easements need to be acquired. The City did receive another \$1 million in funding from the Wilson Foundation. Commissioner Winters asked whether there will be any sort of grand opening for the trail. Will it be for all the communities? Ms. Magee said that there will be a grand opening near the M-5 bridge.

Commissioner Winters mentioned the previous discussions about the DDA & Parks and Recreation Department coordinating sponsorship promotion and funding. Ms. Magee noted that it will go into the minutes, which is distributed to City Council.

She noted that the trailhead at Gunnar Mettala Park will be renamed in honor of John Momberg who was instrumental in securing the grants for the purchase and development of Gunnar Mettala Park. He was also a former Parks & Recreation Commissioner so she thinks this is very fitting.

INFORMATION:

None.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

There were no comments made by the Commissioners.

STAFF COMMENTS:

There were no comments made by the staff.

ADJOURNMENT:

This meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was motioned and adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Nancy Fisher
Recording Secretary