



Parks and Recreation ♦ 4811 North Saginaw Road ♦ Midland, Michigan 48640 ♦ 989.837.6930 ♦ 989.835.5651 Fax ♦ www.cityofmidlandmi.gov

February 2, 2023

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Karen Murphy, Public Services Director

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of February 7, 2023

The regular meeting of the Midland Parks and Recreation Commission has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2023. The meeting will be held in person at the Council Chambers of Midland City Hall at 333 W. Ellsworth Street and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Minutes of meeting of December 6, 2022
- 4) Call to Audience
- 5) City Forest Mountain Biking Flow Trail proposal
- 6) Grove Park Changing Places restroom donation
- 7) Miracle Field play area and shade sail design
- 8) Project Reports
 - a. Currie Stadium demolition
 - b. Poseyville Riverfront Restoration
- 9) Recreation Update
- 10) Old Business
- 11) New Business
- 12) Adjourn



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February 2, 2023

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Karen Murphy, Director of Public Services

SUBJECT: Notes for Meeting of Tuesday, February 7, 2023

City Forest Mountain Biking Flow Trail proposal: Stephen Keeley of the Central Michigan Mountain Biking Association (CMMBA) will present a proposal to build a mountain biking flow trail at the City Forest in an available space adjacent to the back toboggan run tower. CMMBA has received a grant to pursue the design work and will ask the Commission for support to carry forward with this. Construction of the trail would require additional outside fundraising efforts by CMMBA.

Grove Park Changing Places restroom donation: The Midland Noon Rotary Club has received \$475,000 in grants from various local foundations and wishes to donate the funds to the City for the construction of a fully accessible Changing Places restroom at Grove Park. This restroom will be equipped with an adult changing table and an overhead lift system to be used by park patrons who need assistance transferring from a mobility device to the toilet and/or changing table. I will ask for Commission support to recommend that City Council accepts this generous offer to allow the project to move forward.

Miracle Field play area and shade sail design: I will share designs for the next phases at the Miracle Field which include installing a fully accessible play area and a shade sail area. Partial funding for these is available in the Miracle Field project fund held at the Midland Area Community Foundation. The remaining funds will need to be raised before the project can move forward. I will ask for Commission support for the play area and shade sails – this will be helpful for staff to share as they move forward with fundraising efforts.

Project Reports

- a. Currie Stadium demolition: I will give a brief update on the project status.
- b. Poseyville Riverfront Restoration: I will give a brief update on the project status, including production of the pedestrian walkway.

Recreation Update: I will share an update on the recreation fee process as well as provide a brief update on City Forest offerings and upcoming community garden registration.

Respectfully,

Karen Murphy

MIDLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF DECMEBER 6, 2022
MIDLAND CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 P.M.

PROPOSED MINUTES

1) Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairperson Neil Rankin.

Pledge of Allegiance

2) Roll Call:

- a. MEMBERS PRESENT: Bartle, Carney, McCoy, Montalbano, Rankin, Steidemann, Varela
- b. MEMBERS ABSENT: Billotti
- c. OTHERS PRESENT: Director of Planning and Community Development Jacob Kain

3) Minutes of November 2, 2022: Steidemann motioned, Montalbano seconded to receive minutes of the meeting of November 2, 2022. Motion passed 6-0. Varela had not yet arrived at the meeting.

4) Call to Audience: None

5) Midland City Modern Master Planning – Request for Parks & Recreation Commission input:

The City's Director of Planning and Community Development, Jacob Kain, provided a review of the Midland City Modern Master Planning process. Midland City Modern is a 30 year look into the future with 2050 as the planning horizon. The document will set a long-term policy vision for the City. Work completed to date includes the Imagine It broad visioning process with broad public surveys, the Midland Moves walking events and several stakeholder meetings. Three focus areas came out of this process: Neighborhoods + Livability, Transportation + Mobility, and Sustainability + Resiliency. The Planning Department is currently hosting pop-up events around the City with a focus on conversation. There is a website as well, www.midlandcitymodern.com. Kain presented four questions for consideration to the Commissioners and opened up the floor to conversation. The Commissioners offered the following thoughts/ideas:

- People want parks, green space close by to get there without cars
- Annexed areas don't have access to parks
- Greenspace within neighborhoods defines livability
- Worry about overuse of bigger parks like City Forest – need better balance
- Demographics – growth has been flat, seeing influential younger generation
- More unstructured options
- Creating own community around activities people enjoy, like pickleball. Provide the facility and let them create the community.
- Can you change old business spaces, like McDonald Ford, into green gathering space?
- Benches on wide sidewalk along S. Saginaw
- Recycling in parks

- Environmental impact of parks – less maintained areas, reduce need to mow/naturalize for resiliency
- New is nice, but maintain old stuff too – think of long-term costs
- Hit lots of demographics with offerings
- Concern with future staffing – if economics change and lose staff levels, can we still maintain it all?
- See more people walking since COVID and trend seems to be sticking around
- Way to connect all parks together
- Bike lanes are scary to use at times and aren't adequate – sharing with cars, hard to use with kids
- Alternate modes of transportation
- Soft surface trails – take your kids from one park to the next
- Access to City Forest – no good way to there without a car
- Parks are big part of our identity – Need to nurture that. Parks make community feel cohesive.
- Accessibility – we've made strides, need to continue
- Make everything as accessible as possible for everyone
- Parks may not make people move here, but once you are here they make you want to stay
- Parks are a draw and you don't have to spend money to enjoy them
- Midland Blooms and beautiful horticulture are important
- Natural beauty of the City
- People don't differentiate between the City and non-profits like Dahlia Hill, Dow Gardens, etc.

6) Public hearing on proposed recreation fee changes for 2023: Murphy reviewed the proposed recreation fees as presented to the Commission at their November meeting. The proposed fee changes include:

- Increase all softball fees by \$2.00 per player for adult and youth leagues
 - Adult summer league to increase from \$35 to \$37 per player
 - Adult fall league to increase from \$25 to \$27 per player
 - Youth league to increase from \$14 to \$16 per player
- Increase City Forest Chalet rental from \$50 to \$55 per hour
- Increase the Band Shell rental from \$80 to \$85 per use
- Increase all pavilion and unsheltered picnic pads by \$5 per use
- Increase fee for approval of an additional canopy from \$25 to \$30 per request
- Increase stage rental by \$25 per use as follows
 - Inside City limits for non-profit from \$125 to \$150
 - Inside City limits for profit from \$275 to \$300
 - Within Midland County for non-profit from \$200 to \$225
 - Eliminate rental to for profit within Midland County
- Increase bleacher rental from \$20 to \$30 per bleacher
- Eliminate portable grill rental
- Increase picnic table rental from \$40 to \$50 for up to 5 tables and from \$8 to \$10 for each additional table up to a total of 10
- Increase trash receptacle rental from \$20 to \$25 per use (maximum 10)

- Increase event fencing rental from \$100 to \$125 per trailer and \$20 to \$30 for up to five pieces with an increase in the cleaning fee from \$30 to \$50 if needed
- Tournament Fees
 - Increase field rentals as follows:
 - 2 hour rental - \$50 weekday fee, \$75 weekend fee per field
 - 4 hour rental –\$75 weekday fee, \$100 weekend fee per field
 - Full day rental –\$125 weekday fee, \$150 weekend fee per field
 - Daily Complex rental of New Redcoats – \$500 weekday fee, \$550 weekend fee per day
 - Daily Complex rental of Old Redcoats - \$400 weekday fee, \$450 weekend fee per day
 - Daily Complex rental of Optimist - \$350 weekday fee, \$400 weekend fee per day
 - Daily Complex rental of Emerson - \$250 weekday fee, \$300 weekend fee per day
 - Increase ball diamond lighting from from \$25 to \$30 per hour
- Swimming Fees
 - Increase Midland Dolphins rate from \$5,000 to \$5,500 for the season (this does not require an ordinance chance)

A public hearing was scheduled for this evening to review the proposed fee changes but there were no audience members present who wished to comment, so the public hearing was closed with no comments offered. Murphy shared that a joint meeting with City Council is scheduled for Monday, December 19 at 6:00 pm in City Council Overflow Room. Murphy will then present the recommended changes at two City Council meetings in January for consideration and adoption.

Montalbano motioned to recommend the fees as proposed to the City Council, and Carney seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

- 7) Spark Grant application to State of Michigan for Plymouth Pool Restoration Project: Murphy shared the need for a major restoration project at Plymouth Pool. The gutter system and underground plumbing sections are leaking water. The estimated repair cost is \$2.5MM and City Council has approved a grant application in the amount of \$1MM to the State of Michigan’s Spark Grant program. The City will provide the additional funding and the project would occur in September 2023. The application deadline is December 19 and Murphy requested a motion of support for the grant application from the Parks and Recreation Commission. Carney motioned, Varela seconded a motion of support from the Parks and Recreation Commission in favor of the City applying for a grant from the State of Michigan’s Spark Gran program in the amount of \$1MM to support the needed restoration work at Plymouth Pool. Motion passed 7-0.
- 8) Project Reports:
 - a. **Currie Stadium demolition**: Murphy shared that disconnecting the utilities took longer than anticipated, with Consumers Energy completing the natural gas disconnect last week. The City is waiting for the final paperwork from Consumers in order to finalize the demolition permit. Murphy is hopeful that demolition can begin next week.
 - b. **Spring tree planting grant award**: Murphy reported that the City’s new grant coordinator, Suzanne Wiggins, successfully applied for a grant for \$20,000 to the

Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Urban Forestry grant program to plant trees in the outlaws. This doubles the current budget for tree replacement and gets the City closer to its goal of 1:1 tree replacement where one tree is planted for each street tree that is removed.

9) Old Business: None

10) New Business: None

11) Adjourn: Motioned by Montalbano, seconded by Steidemann to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" at the end.

Karen Murphy
Director of Public Services