

MIDLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 6, 2023  
MIDLAND CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
7:00 P.M.

APPROVED MINUTES

- 1) Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Holly Montalbano.

\*\*Pledge of Allegiance\*\*

- 2) Roll Call:

- a. MEMBERS PRESENT: Bartle, Carney, McCoy, Montalbano, Steidemann,
- b. MEMBERS ABSENT: Billotti, Rankin, Varela
- c. OTHERS PRESENT: Patrick Reiger, Business Manager, Father Rob Howe

- 3) Minutes of May 3, 2023: Montalbano motioned, Carney seconded to receive minutes of the meeting of May 3, 2023. Motion passed 5-0.

- 4) Call to Audience: None

- 5) Blessed Sacrament Church playground proposal: Patrick Regier and Father Rob Howe from Blessed Sacrament Parish presented a proposal from the church to donate their existing playground next to Wallen Park to the City along with \$200,000 in funding to purchase all new equipment. The playground was part of Blessed Sacrament's school offering and now with the school closed, the church desires to have the City own the property to continue offering a community playground in the neighborhood. City staff will design the new play area which will likely be smaller in size than the current layout to better match the offering for a neighborhood park, and Parks crews will install the equipment with the City providing all future maintenance of the site. This request needs go to City Council for final approval. Parks supervisory staff have evaluated the proposal and are in support of the concept.

Post asked for a motion to recommend to City Council that they approve the proposal from Blessed Sacrament to accept a property donation along with funds to install new play equipment in order to keep the play area available as a public playground. Carney made the motion, Steidemann seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

- 6) Chippewassee pavilion vandalism: Post shared that Parks has been finding an extreme amount of vandalism at the Chippewassee Park pavilion that is making it difficult to ensure the pavilion will be in acceptable condition for pavilion rentals. Staff has made the decision to honor any existing reservations for this season but to stop taking any additional reservations of the pavilion. Staff will re-evaluate this over the winter and make a longer term decision on the use of the pavilion at that point.

- 7) Project Reports

- a. Stratford canoe/kayak launch: Post shared pictures of the concrete walkways and landing pad for the canoe/kayak launch being installed at Stratford. The City's DPW crew provided the site work and coordinated the concrete installation. Next the Parks

crew will install the launch once the concrete has a couple weeks to cure. Post is hoping to have the launch available by mid-June.

- b. Riverfront pedestrian handrail installation: Post shared pictures of the pedestrian handrail being installed along the paved trail that runs along the river behind Riverside Place. Post reminded the Commission that the handrail was purchased via a grant from the Midland Area Community Foundation with the City Parks staff doing the installation. Post also noted that Parks have been working with the City's Facilities Manager to coordinate this project with a larger project planned at Riverside Place so eventually the handrail will extend along the entire riverfront.
- 8) Recreation Update: Post provided an update on the current summer recreation programs. Post started off by sharing that the first ever Kid's Fishing event at Stratford was scheduled for Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> in cooperation with the Women of the Wild, Midland Conservation District and the Mid-Michigan Community Action Agency. Secondly, Post talked about the opening of Plymouth Pool. The pool opened on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> with a record day of sales. New in 2023 we have a new Manager, Lynette Duncan and 34 staff who are being on-boarded. Other changes include Kona Ice shaved ice truck on deck, an updated closing time of 8:00 p.m. this year instead of 8:30 p.m. so staff can have additional time to clean the deck and finally, we will be adding adaptive morning swim on Saturdays in August. Post added information on swim Lessons. In 2023 the format was updated and pared down to 30 minutes (instead of 45) with smaller class sizes with a safety-first curriculum. This year families are welcome on the deck. To date, we have 506 students enrolled. Post shared the Tunes by the Tridge schedule with the commission. Last but not least Post shared that the LEAP Program begins on Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. We have an exciting new staff with new activities planned. Participants can view the calendar online at the city's website.
- 9) Old Business : None
- 10) New Business: None
- 11) Adjourn: Motioned by Steidemann, seconded by McCoy to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 5– 0. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcie Post  
Assistant Director of Public Services