

MIDLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 2, 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 Chairperson Neil Rankin.

Pledge of Allegiance

- 2) Roll Call:

- a. MEMBERS PRESENT: Bartle, Carney, McCoy, Rankin, Steidemann
- b. MEMBERS ABSENT: Billotti, Montalbano, Varela
- c. OTHERS PRESENT:

- 3) Election of Chair and Vice Chair: It has been the Commission's practice to elect a new chair and vice chair annually at the first meeting of the fiscal year. In keeping with the practice, Rankin asked for nominations for the position of chair and an oral vote was taken.

Steidemann nominated Rankin to serve as chair and Bartle seconded the nomination. Motion passed 5-0.

Carney nominated Billotti to serve as vice chair and McCoy seconded the nomination. Motion passed 5-0.

- 4) Minutes of June 6, 2023: Carney motioned, Steidemann seconded to receive minutes of the meeting of June 6, 2023. Motion passed 5-0.

- 5) Call to Audience: Dan Veresh, 515 E. Nelson, spoke regarding concerns at Central Park. Mr. Veresh would like the City to provide dandelion control at Central Park and to install screening on the fence of the pickleball courts to quiet the noise of the pickle balls hitting the pickle ball paddles.

- 6) City Forest Mountain Biking Flow Trail proposal update: C.J. Brey and Steve Keeley from the Central Michigan Mountain Bike Association (CMMBA) provided an updated on the proposed flow trail. The group raised \$13,000 in matching funds for the planning grant they received. Trail Sense, LLC was hired to design the conceptual plan for the trail system. Brey and Keeley presented the plan with a cost estimate of approximately \$150,000. Murphy explained that the project would be bid out, managed and paid for by CMMBA as the local technical experts in the field of mountain biking, with the completed project then donated to the City. Murphy also shared that City staff are working with the mountain biking groups on a formal maintenance agreement where user groups will manage the trail maintenance and modifications in the future.

Steidemann motioned to recommend to City Council that the proposed project be accepted as a gift to the City once the trail system is completed and to allow the fundraising

component of the project to proceed at this time. Bartle seconded the motion and the motion passed 5 - 0.

- 7) Adoption of meeting calendar for 2024: The Commission reviewed the proposed meeting calendar for the upcoming year, and decided to continue meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. There are 3 potential dates for elections in 2024 that require altering the Tuesday meeting schedule on those months to the first Wednesday. The Commission decided not to meet in January and July due to the proximity to the respective holidays nor in April due to the proximity to the Midland Public Schools’ spring break. Under the ordinance, the Commission must meet six times per fiscal year. The following meeting schedule was discussed for 2024 with the understanding that meetings will be cancelled in advance if the Commission does not have official business to address:

Tuesday, January 2	Wednesday, May 8	Tuesday, September 3
Tuesday, February 6	Tuesday, June 4	Tuesday, October 1
Wednesday, March 6**	Tuesday, July 2	Wednesday, November 6
Tuesday, April 2	Wednesday, August 7	Tuesday, December 3

Rankin questioned the date for the presidential primary in February or March. Murphy said she would research this and if a date needed to be adjusted, she would do so and report back to Council. Based on her research, the primary will likely occur the last Tuesday in February but if the Governor’s proposal does not pass, the primary will be on Tuesday, March 5. To be on the safe side, Murphy is moving the March meeting to Wednesday, March 6**.

McCoy motioned to accept the meeting calendar with meetings the first Tuesday of each month with the exception of January, July and April when no meetings will be scheduled, and with meetings on potential election months to be held on Wednesday. Bartle seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

- 8) Discussion topics for FY 2023/24 Work Plan: Murphy reviewed last fiscal year’s work plan for the Commission to consider. The work plan defines the role of the Parks and Recreation Commission as an advisory committee to City Council, and explains the director’s role as staff liaison to the Commission. The plan also contains a recommended list of topics for the Commission to discuss over the course of the year.

Murphy asked for suggestions on discussion topics for the upcoming fiscal year. The Commission suggested we cover topics that we did not get to this year and we add the following items: Plymouth Pool project, safety/vandalism, forestry diseases and BMX track/user group update. Murphy will bring the updated topic list back to the Commission for final approval at the next meeting.

- 9) Parks Rules proposed changes: Murphy shared two proposed changes to the Parks Rules. The first change states that any personal property remaining in any park after park hours without written permission from the Director will be removed by authorized personnel. The second change states that using metal detectors in a manner that would violate Section 6F – Protection of Property, is prohibited. Murphy requested a motion of support to recommend that City Council accepts the proposed changes. Steidemann motioned and McCoy seconded the motion as requested. Motion passed 5 - 0.

10) Project Reports:

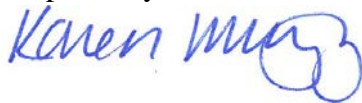
- a. **Poseyville Riverfront Restoration:** Murphy reported the water main project is complete which will allow Fisher Contracting to resume activity on the west side of the project site. The City is still waiting on AT&T to remove their utilities and staff is working to relocate/reconnect electrical to the City's maintenance facility. Murphy shared photos of the bridge being fabricated and reported that the consultant is working on getting the second flood plain permit submitted to the Michigan Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE).
- b. **Grove Park Restroom:** Murphy reported that bids came in over budget and the Midland Rotary Foundation offered an additional grant for \$32,000. City Council will consider the grant and a contract award at their August 14 meeting. Murphy has a pre-construction meeting scheduled August 17 with a groundbreaking event planned for early September.
- c. **Central Park Band Shell Accessibility Improvements:** Murphy reported that bids came in over budget and the City had additional Community Development Block Grant funds to provide a total budget of \$180,000. City Council will consider the additional grant funding and contract award at their August 14 meeting. The project will start in early September.
- d. **Stratford Accessible Canoe/Kayak Launch:** Murphy shared pictures of the completed concrete work and pathways. The parks staff will install the launch yet this month now that the concrete has cured.

11) Old Business : None

12) New Business: None

13) Adjourn: Motioned by Bartle, seconded by Steidemann to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 5- 0. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Murphy
Director of Public Services