

MIDLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1, 2023
MIDLAND CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 P.M.

APPROVED MINUTES

- 1) Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Neil Rankin.

Pledge of Allegiance

- 2) Roll Call:

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

- 3) Minutes of September 5, 2023: Sovereign motioned, McCoy seconded to receive minutes of the meeting of September 5, 2023. Motion passed 6-0.

- 4) Call to Audience: None

- 5) City Modern Master Plan draft – request for comments: Director of Planning and Community Development Jacob Kain shared a review of the draft of the City’s new master plan, City Modern. Kain shared major themes learned through the public input process, including the importance of economic growth and natural features. Kain discussed the four implementation areas for action, including infrastructure & utilities, the local economy, health & wellbeing, and energy & environment. The plan also includes a Future Land Use Map/Plan and a Future Transportation Map/Plan. Kain also highlighted areas that overlap with the Parks and Recreation focus, asking the Commissioners to review and comment on these areas in particular. Public comment is open through mid-December. All comments will be shared with the Planning Commission. Billotti asked when public discussions would occur. Kain shared an Open House events on November 9 in City Council Chambers, as well as two events being hosted out in the community at Live Oak and Grove Tea Lounge, as well as a Virtual Q&A to be held December 6.

- 6) End of season report for Plymouth Pool: Murphy shared the end of season report for Plymouth Pool including a review of the number of users as well as a comparison of revenue and expenses for the season. Cost recovery came in at 62%. Concessions were offered for the first time this year, with a profit sharing with the vendor Kona Ice as well as items sold directly by the City such as sunscreen, swim diapers, goggles and dive toys.

- 7) End of season reports for adult sports - beach volleyball, softball, kickball: Murphy shared end of season reports as follows:

- a. Beach Volleyball had 58 teams with 363 players for an eight-week season. Revenue continues to cover expenses for this program.
- b. Adult Softball for the summer league was down four teams for a total of 102 teams and

1,564 players. The fall league was down by 13 teams for a total of 29 teams and 391 players. Revenue is still not providing the cost recovery needed for this program so staff is recommending a \$3.00 per player increase for fees in 2024.

- c. Youth Girls Softball saw an increase in players this season with 172 in the spring league compared to 149 last year. A summer league was also held for the first time since 2019 with 46 players. The revenue for this program is not providing the cost recovery needed similar to the adult softball program.
 - d. Adult Kickball continues to be a sellout with 24 teams and 330 players. This program's revenue covers all expenses. This year there continued to be a shortage of referees so referees were not provided for any of the games.
- 8) Review of recreation fee philosophy: Murphy reviewed the current recreation fee philosophy. The philosophy has remained unchanged in recent years and has served the parks and recreation department well. The challenge each year is to ensure the fees recover adequate costs to support the fee philosophy. Murphy asked the Commission if they recommended any changes to the philosophy at this time. Sovereign asked about consideration of a resident versus non-resident rate. Billotti asked if any consideration has been given for low income residents. Murphy stated that the Commission could bring these considerations up with City Council when the joint meeting is held to see if there was interest in pursuing either option.
- 9) Proposed recreation fee changes for 2024: Murphy shared the fee recommendations for 2024 which include the following:
- Increase adult softball fees by \$3.00 per player
 - Adult summer league to increase from \$37 to \$40 per player
 - Adult fall league to increase from \$27 to \$30 per player
 - Increase youth softball fees by \$2.00 per player from \$16 to \$18 per player
 - Eliminate the Toboggan Adventure Package at City Forest
 - Add clause to Parks trash receptacles to include for-profit events
 - Swimming Fees
 - Combine adult and youth limited passes into one limited pass for all ages for \$60
 - Increase Midland Dolphins fee from \$5,500 to \$5,750 for the season
 - Increase rate for Aquasize daily drop-in from \$5 to \$12 per session
 - Increase competitive swim pool rental from \$65 to \$75 per hour

Murphy asked for a motion to move the proposed fees forward to the December public hearing process. Billotti motioned and Sovereign seconded the motion with the motion passing 6-0.

- 10) Fall recreation program update: Murphy shared that the Grand Experience trip hosted 143 travelers with 76 rooms, making Midland the largest single group on the island for that session. Murphy also shared that the movie night at Stratford Woods Park was cancelled midway through the Invasion of the Body Snatchers due to high winds that impacted the inflatable screen. 39 cars were in attendance with about 117 people viewing the movie.

11) Beautification Awards - Save the Date: Murphy shared that the Appreciation of Beautification Awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, November 2 at 7:00 pm in City Council Chambers. 16 awards will be handed out with several honorable mention certificates issued as well. Murphy encouraged the commissioners to attend the ceremony to show their support for this very active subcommittee.

12) Project Reports:

- a. **Grove Park**: Murphy shared pictures of the work completed to date on the site, including installation of underground utilities across Ashman Street, excavation for the building footings, block work and plumbing for the restrooms.
- b. **Poseyville Riverfront Restoration**: Murphy shared that the second EGLE permit has been submitted to the State for consideration. Utility lines and poles are being removed and the pavilion design is underway. Murphy shared a sneak peek at the color choices for the pavilion and bridge, and stated the plan is to work on bridge footing installations this winter when the river levels tend to be more stable.
- c. **Central Park Bandshell Accessibility**: Murphy shared that J.R. Heinman and Sons plan to start on the project next week.
- d. **Emerson Park Riverfront**: Murphy reported that the bid specifications and design plans have been submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for review and approval. The next step will be seeking competitive bids with construction to start in the spring.
- e. **Miracle Field play area and shade sails**: Murphy reported that staff are waiting for survey data on the play area in order to put together bid specifications for site excavation and concrete work. Specifications are in development for the shade sail installation as well. Parks in-house staff will install the play equipment and based on weather, it looks like this will be a spring project.

13) Old Business : None

14) New Business: None

15) Adjourn: Motioned by Steidemann, seconded by Sovereign to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Murphy
Director of Public Services