

CITY OF OAK PARK, MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
November 14, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Alexander Simpson, Chairperson, at 7:01 pm.

Present: Alexander Simpson, Mickey Alderman, Juanita Bell, Beverly Wiggins, Patrick North, Dwight Thomas, Diane Spiller, Jim Weiskopf

Member Absent: Barb Weiskopf

Council Member Present: Regina Weiss

Recreation Staff Present: Laurie Stasiak

Approval of minutes of Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting for September 12, 2018.
Motion to accept by Dwight Thomas/Seconded by Diane Spiller

Council Comments:

Grant Opportunity was shared in the amount of \$15,000 from KABOOM. This is a community built and involvement project that would be a good fit for Lessenger Park.

Recreation Updates:

Pocket Parks – This is a separate funding. Crystal McClain/Kimberly Marrone/committee is spearheading linear parks and is waiting for funding to come through. Larger areas will have activities/hammocks/park benches/bicycle stations and creative playgrounds.

Focus is on DNR and Sponsorships

Envision repaving sidewalks on the southside of 9 Mile Rd and adding more decorative fences. Emphasis is also being placed on recreation with MOGO starting soon.

Sports Youths and Adults:

Adult kickball ended with success. Three more teams than last year were added.

Youth basketball teams will be utilizing two OP Gyms with games at Ferndale HS/Hazel Park Schools/Southfield Parks and Rec Beechwood Gym

Plans are being put in place to utilize OPHS for activities. Rec. Staff had a positive meeting with Coach Carter from OPHS.

Looking into partnering with SOCS (Travel and recreational soccer league) possible soccer clinics and camps to expand soccer opportunities in Oak Park.

OP Senior Softball might be returning.

Special Events:

Boo Bash - 3 hours of continuous movement with 6,000 – 6,500 attendees. More outside scenes and were added around the building as anxious ghouls and goblins waited outside to get into the decorated hallways. Boo Bash had a smooth flow with a thank you from Laurie to all volunteers, vendors and sponsors.

BOO BASH NEW DATE FOR NEXT YEAR:

It was moved by Beverly Wiggins and seconded by Dwight Thomas that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended that Boo Bash be moved to the Saturday before Halloween.

Winter Fest:

Scheduled for the last Sunday in January - January 27 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm.

A variety of family friendly activities are being planned along with refreshments, ice skating, indoor crafts and activities and outside activities (weather permitting)

Volunteers are needed.

City Festivals:

No date for Summer Blast has been set yet, waiting on our partner Oakland County Parks for their schedule.

Time/Money/Efforts are needed.

Anticipating a complete makeover for Summer Blast after 2020. More to come!

Commission Project:

Oak Park Got Talent – Possibility of being incorporated with Summer Blast.

It was moved by Patrick North and seconded by Beverly Wiggins that the commission project be tabled.

Juanita Bell encouraged members to continue searching for grants and topics that were shared at the October 17th roundtable discussion and to forward all information to Laurie Stasiak for review.

Next scheduled meeting date: December 19, 2018 at 7:00 pm in Room 1.

It was motioned by Mickey Alderman and seconded by Alexander Simpson to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Juanita Bell, Recording Secretary.