

SOUTH LYON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES May 14, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chairperson Orlando.

Present: Dianne Beagle
Alex Clark
Keith McCormick
Mike Orlando
Erica Wilson

Kristen Delaney – City of South Lyon
Amy Allen – South Lyon Area Recreation Authority

Mark Russell – Russell Design

Marty Gaut – Marty Gras Volleyball
Jason LaPerna – South Lyon Panther Football
Matt Cepak – Mat Cat Wrestling
Stephanie Harris – Lyon Football Club
Carl Richards - Resident

Absent: Ed McLoud

New Commissioner – Commissioners welcomed Alex Clark as the newest member, filling the position vacated by Jeff Thompson. She was appointed and sworn in at the last City Council meeting.

Approval of Agenda – Orlando stated that Mr. Gaut requested to be first on the agenda because he had to leave, however he was not present at the start of the meeting. Wilson suggested that the meeting proceed through the agenda and fit Mr. Gaut in when he arrives. Orlando requested that item F.2. Commissioner Resignation be added. Orlando requested that item G.2. McHattie Park Walk-Through be removed. Motion by Wilson, supported by Clark, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – Motion by Wilson, supported by Thompson, to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2014 Commission meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The April meeting, which was a public hearing on the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update, did not have a quorum present.

Citizen Comments – Mr. Richards gave a brief presentation on some of the history of McHattie Park, the mobile home park in town and the Michigan Seamless Tube site. He also gave information on the soils in these areas.

I. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. SLARA Updates** – Allen stated that the summer brochures had been mailed. Two Safety Town programs will be held in June/July, one for younger children and one for older students. The popular Kids Camp at Island Lake is currently taking reservations. A new activity, McHattie Fun Day, will be held on Wednesdays from 11-12 during June and July. Each week will feature different activities for kids. No reservations are needed, just stop in at the park.

- 2. Eagle Scout Project Updates** – Beagle stated that Devon Walrath has received BSA Troop and Council approval of his proposed project to install trail marking signs in Volunteer Park. Devon plans to begin installation this month. He will contact the Commission to schedule a review upon project completion.

- 3. Community Center Committee Update** – Allen stated that the Committee is on hiatus after learning that the cost for the center is much higher than anticipated and Salem Township does not wish to participate. They will reconvene in the fall to explore alternative funding sources. It most likely will be several years before a Community Center millage could be placed in front of voters.

- 4. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update** – Mr. Russell stated that all of the online survey data had been collected and will be analyzed and incorporated into the revised Master Plan. Delaney will email the data to all Commissioners. A draft of the Master Plan will be provided to all Commissioners prior to the June meeting.

- 5. Volunteer Park Field Plans** – Mr. Russell and Mr. LaPerna presented the final conceptual design drawings for the proposed field, trail and facility additions to Volunteer Park. They had incorporated suggestions made previously by the Commission as well as input from residents and all of the organizations that would be utilizing the park. Mr. LaPerna, Mr. Cepak and Ms. Harris all stated that there were many, many residents in the South Lyon area that were in full support of this project. Most of the parents from the various youth sports groups have offered the labor and/or monetary contributions to help it succeed. Mr. LaPerna stated that he had met with a representative of Illitch Holdings who said they were expanding from sponsoring hockey and soccer into lacrosse and baseball/softball. They expressed interest in this project as well. Further discussions will take place. Mr. LaPerna stated that they were seeking official approval of the conceptual design from the Commission prior to presenting it to City Council. Specifics such as funding, phases, responsibilities and maintenance still must be addressed. Allen stated that SLARA is in full support of the project and offered to attend any future meetings to assist Mr. LaPerna and his planning group. Commissioners were pleased with the design but requested that emergency vehicle access be added extending from the park's main entrance drive south between the fields. Mr. Russell will make the change. Motion by Wilson, supported by McCormick, to approve the conceptual design for Volunteer Park presented by Mr. LaPerna and Mr. Russell with the requested addition of emergency vehicle access. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Commission Expansion – Commissioners continued the discussion regarding increasing the number of Commissioners from six to seven. Having an odd number prevents ties when voting and an extra member would make reaching a quorum easier. Delaney stated that the City Manager is considered a voting member of the Commission. Orlando pointed out that the Manager does not attend meetings on a regular basis as the citizen Commissioners do. Wilson stated that the extra member is needed and the By-Laws should be reviewed by the city's attorney to insure the revised wording is correct and legal. Motion by Wilson, supported by McCormick, to increase the number of citizen Commissioners from six to seven and revise the By-Laws accordingly. Motion carried unanimously. Delaney will provide a copy of the By-Laws to the city's attorney and inform him of the Commission's vote.

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Marty Gras Volleyball – Mr. Gaut stated that it has been approximately six years since the volleyball courts in McHattie Park had new sand applied. The courts have deteriorated and now collect quite a bit of water which is very slow to drain or evaporate. Safety is becoming an issue as the existing sand has packed down and is very hard. He obtained quotes for new mason sand which ranged from \$400-\$700 if the City DPW department picked it up. Delivery would add an additional \$400-\$500. New sand has been on the list of McHattie Park maintenance items for several years and was supposed to have been included in the budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. Orlando requested that Delaney pursue this with the City Manager and Bookkeeper to see if the sand could be purchased in the next few weeks. Mr. Gaut stated that the courts really need to be rebuilt with a better drainage system underneath. Once that is completed, he would request that better, Lake Michigan sand be installed. Commissioners requested that he obtain an estimate as to what this would cost to determine if it could be added to next year's budget, which is currently being finalized. Mr. Gaut also asked if a delay switch could be installed on the foot wash. Currently, it takes two people to operate, one holds the switch on and the other washes. A delay would allow the water to stay on and shut itself off after a set period of time. Delaney will pursue this with the DPW. Mr. Gaut also inquired about the possibility of installing a permanent schedule board for posting league, tournament and reservation information. Beagle stated that this would be a good Eagle project and Commissioners agreed. Allen provided a temporary solution of paper schedules inserted into waterproof plastic protectors that could be wire tied to the fence.

2. Resignation of Commissioner – McCloud submitted his letter of resignation to Orlando on May 14, 2014. He stated that due to his absences during the winter months when he lives in Florida, he felt he was compromising the work of the Commission. Commissioners stated that McCloud's ideas and point of view will be greatly missed. His official resignation will occur after the letter has been submitted to City Council at its next meeting. Delaney stated that there were no applications for Commissioner on file at City Hall. She will post a notice seeking new applicants on the City's Facebook page. Commissioners will also solicit applications from City residents when possible.

3. Annual Park Walk-Throughs – Wilson proposed that the June meeting be moved up an hour to allow time afterward for walk-throughs of both McHattie and Volunteer Parks. All agreed. Motion by Wilson, supported by McCormick, to move the start of the June 11th meeting to 6:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously. Delaney will post the revised meeting time.

III. Commission Comments – None

IV. Adjournment – Motion by Wilson, supported by McCormick, to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Upcoming meetings/events:

- June 11 - meeting at 6:00 pm followed by McHattie and Volunteer Park walk-throughs
- July 9
- August 13
- September 1 - Labor Day Bridge Walk
- September 10

Submitted by:

Michael Olando, Chairperson

Dianne Beagle, Secretary