

**CITY OF DEXTER  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 19, 2016**

The regular meeting of the City of Dexter Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:07 pm at the City Offices, 8123 Main Street.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Becky Murillo, Julie Knight, Michael Cavanaugh, and John Coy

Commissioners Absent: Ellen Han, Toni Henkemeyer

Other Present: Justin Breyer, Assistant to the City Manager; Michelle Aniol, Community Development Manager; Paul Cousins, Mark Amsdill, Susan Amsdill, Kim Sexton, Dexter Community Ringers

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Motion by Cavanaugh, Seconded by Murillo to approve the minutes from November 17, 2015 with the following corrections:

- Remove Katie Koch
- Add Michael Cavanaugh to Commissioners Present
- Remove John Coy from Commissioners Present

Motion Adopted

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Coy, Seconded by Murillo to approve the agenda as presented, with the following changes:

- Move items 7A and 7B to come before Reports and Communication

**CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. DISCUSSION OF: THE FUTURE OF FIRST STREET PARK**

Paul Cousins addressed the Committee regarding First Street Park. Mr. Cousins provided some history about the clean-up of the park and the Dexter Ringer's involvement. Mark Amsdill, member of the Dexter Ringers talked about the history of the Dexter Ringers. Mr. Amsdill commented that the ringers donate the money that they raise from tournaments to various charities. He further commented that the club charges \$5 per person and charge money to members of the Dexter Ringers league.

Susan Amsdill commented that she lives in Cottonwood Condos and she is concerned about children and teens skateboarding and causing trouble in the park. She also commented that she was concerned about developing a skateboard park in the area and dogs being let off their leash in the park. Michelle Aniol commented that the skateboard park was taken off of the Capital Improvements Plan last year.

Paul Cousins discussed the proposed construction process for the shelter and stated that they were requesting that the City contribute \$5,000 towards the construction. Commission members discussed the need for the shelter and the current look of the park. Commission members expressed concern about the storage of private tools and equipment in a publicly funded shelter.

Motion by Coy, Seconded by Murillo to recommend to City Council to contribute \$5,000 towards the construction of a pavilion with unlocked public access storage at First Street Park as presented.

Yeas: Murillo, Knight, Cavanaugh, Coy  
Nays: None

## **B. CONSIDERATION OF: SMITHGROUPJJR PROPOSAL TO ASSIST WITH MDNR TRUST FUND GRANT FOR MILL CREEK PARK PHASE 2 TRAIL**

Paul Evanoff presented information and sought feedback related to his proposal to assist the City with the development of a MDNR Trust Fund Grant for Mill Creek Park Phase 2 Trail. The Mr. Evanoff led discussion related to possible costs of the Mill Creek Park Phase 2 Trail and possible solutions and phasing. The Commission discussed possible grant funding sources and what of material the trail should be constructed. The Commission discussed ending this phase of the Trail at 7931 Grand St., which would coincide with new development at that location.

Motion by Coy, Seconded by Murillo to recommend to City Council to submit an application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for the Mill Creek Park Phase 2 Trail based on cost estimates and proposal to be provided by SmithGroupJJR.

Yeas: Murillo, Knight, Cavanaugh, Coy  
Nays: None

The Commission conversed with Paul Evanoff about a proposal from Trout Unlimited to build steps into Mill Creek and maintain a pathway to the steps. The Commission discussed erecting warning signage that would place the risk on those that used the path.

Motion by Murillo, Second by Cavanaugh to recommend to City Council to provide Trout Unlimited with a letter of support for building steps, weed whacking a path to the steps, and placing warning signage at the entrance to the path, subject to review of plans and specifications and under the condition that Trout Unlimited meet all MDEQ requirements.

Yeas: Murillo, Knight, Cavanaugh, Coy  
Nays: None

## **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION**

### **A. CHAIR**

None.

### **B. COMMISSIONERS AND EX-OFFICIO**

John Coy discussed Tree Board happenings. Mr. Coy stated that the Tree Board is in the middle of the spring tree planting. There are 36 young trees in decline that the Board is

interested in removing. The Board received a \$4,000 grant to address this, but they are planning on submitting a request to Council for more funding to complete other projects.

### **C. STAFF REPORT**

Justin Breyer submitted his report per the packet. He reported that the Winter Ice Rink was open as of January 19<sup>th</sup>. He also reported that he and Michelle Aniol met with the Huron River Watershed Council about the Trail Towns Blue Print, which the HRWC would be sending sometime soon. The Commission briefly discussed the proposed Lion's Park art sculpture.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **C. CONSIDERATION OF: PARKS ITEMS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Justin Breyer led the Commission through discussion of the Capital Improvements Plan. The Commission proposed the following changes:

- Removing the Dog Park CIP item.
- Adding language about the pathway connection to Community Park.
- Update the Mill Creek Park item based on Paul Evanoff's estimate and proposal.
- Merge School Property Acquisition into the Mill Creek Park item.
- Add item – Improve/Replace Mill Creek Park Play Structure (ratings: 2, 3, 1, 3, 3).

#### **D. DISCUSSION OF: WASHTENAW AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY PEDESTRIAN COUNTER**

Justin Breyer led the Commission in a conversation about a proposal received from the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) Committee to purchase pedestrian counters for the Border-to-Border Trail. Commission members expressed the opinion that the data would be worth having. If WATS purchased more than one counter, then they could be placed along the Border-to-Border Trail to Hudson-Mills and near the Department of Public Works building.

Motion by Coy, Seconded by Cavanaugh to recommend to Council to enter into an agreement with the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) Committee to purchase and install pedestrian counters for the Border-to-Border Trail.

#### **E. DISCUSSION OF: EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA**

The Commission agreed that Justin Breyer and Becky Murillo would meet to put together a list of what would be needed for the Easter Eggstravaganza. They will report back at the next meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION**

None

### **PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Coy, Seconded by Cavanaugh to adjourn at 10:07 pm  
Motion Adopted

Justin Breyer  
Assistant to the City Manager