

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Chr. LaBar at 4:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present –Del Conley, Jackie Langlois, Mike Peltz (5:07 pm), Ralph Stedman, Debbie Stiller, and Michelle LaBar.

Absent – Art Getzinger, Tom Sobek, and Rick Wagner.

Also present: City Mgr. Slown, DPW Supt. Roger Wenzel, and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Janet Nowak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Comm. Conley, seconded by Comm. Stedman, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 15, 2009.

Ayes – All, motion was carried.

CITIZENS APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMISSION:

Mayor Beach Hall appeared before the Commission to report on “Let’s Get Moving Northern Michigan” and park memorials. He encouraged everyone who is walking, bicycling, and/or golfing to go to the Let’s Get Moving Northern Michigan website (lgmn.org) and sign up. Rogers City and Alpena are competing with Traverse City. Mary Fairbanks is the coordinator for Rogers City. Regarding park memorials, he was approached by a citizen, who asked if a plaque could be erected at the Lakeside Park gazebo honoring Marilyn and Jim Sinclair for the gazebo. Hall explained how involved the Sinclair’s have been with the City and the gazebo installation at Lakeside Park. The Harbor Advisory Committee has been discussing adding a pocket park to the Rogers City Harbor area in memory of Jack Smitka. Funding for this is to be from designated Smitka Family memorial funds. Hall asked the Commission for their input. Hall thanked the Commission for all their work and commented that the Parks are the City’s best asset.

City Mgr. Slown asked if the pocket park at the marina and the plaque for the Sinclair’s could be added as agenda items. There were no objections to these items being added as agenda items.

REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

REPORTS:

REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF

DPW Supt. Wenzel reported on the following:

- ◆The new slide at the Optimist Park, was donated by the Optimist Club, and was installed by the DPW. Softfall material was placed underneath it.
- ◆The vault toilet was installed at Trout River Park. A steel bench that was built by Moran Iron Works was also installed at this Park.
- ◆Comm. Stedman and Wenzel have been working together with the five people who were hired through the “Work Force Investment Act”. They are widening the trails at Herman Vogler Conservation Area and will be widening the bridges. Stedman explained that they are allowed to work a total of 270 hours.
- ◆Chuck Paull and Wenzel will be walking the trails at Herman Vogler Conservation Area to determine what work needs to be done to make the trails safer for cross country skiers.

City Mgr. Slown thanked the following people: DPW Supt. Wenzel for getting the crossings and streets lines painted; Comm. Stedman for all the things he is doing at the Herman Vogler Conservation Area; Anne Belanger for the A.C.O.R.N. (Active Conservation & Outdoor Recreation in Nature) Project that is a Community Recreation Program. Belanger gave a brief overview of the A.C.O.R.N. Program. June 18th is the kickoff of the program starting with an interpretive nature walk at Thompson’s Harbor State Park.

Slown reported permanent railing will be installed on the gazebo at Westminster Park. MDOT is sponsoring a walkability audit in Rogers City on July 10th at 10 am. Dan Burden, who is an expert on walkable communities, will be performing the audit. Slown stated everyone is invited to give their input on what streets and trails need improvement and those who take part in the walk can attend the afternoon presentation of Burden’s findings and recommendations.

FOSSIL PARK

Anne Belanger, Don Dimick, Janice Stevenson, and Dana LaBar addressed the Commission on the Fossil Park. A report of what they propose for a Fossil Park was handed out to the Commission, including, i.e. wood chips, sign, 40 yards of blue clay, picnic tables, identification of fossils, future improvements and a sketch of the proposed area. DPW Supt. Wenzel pointed out the area of the storm drain and suggested a location for parking. Belanger reported that Paleontologist Paleo Joe will be in Rogers City on Friday, August 7th for a fossil dig, which is part of the A.C.O.R.N. program.

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Slown stated that the City will try to make some of the improvements by the 7th of August, i.e. sign, and additional piles of blue clay. Discussion ensued on the educational and economic benefits the park will provide, and suggested a location for parking. Wenzel provided a diagram of a proposed kiosk that the DPW could build to house the interpretive signs made by the Rogers City Jr. High School students.

P & REC RESOLUTION 2009-06

A motion was made by Comm. Conley, seconded by Comm. Stedman, to recommend to City Council that the conceptual plan presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a fossil park be accepted. City Staff is to implement the plan to the best of their ability.

Ayes-All, the motion carried.

PARKS DAY

The Parks Day Sub-Committee met and set the date for Saturday, August 22nd. Trout River Park and Seagull Point Park will be the featured parks. Comm. Stiller reported that she spoke with Neil Bruchett about having geocaching as an activity at Seagull Point Park. Another activity that will be held at Seagull Point Park will be a nature hike. There will be volleyball and horseshoe activities at Trout River Park. Stiller will be making the signs to advertise Parks Day and she asked that the time the event will be held be decided as soon as possible. The Sub-Committee will meet again to finish the final arrangements.

COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN

City Mgr. Slown reported that the Community Recreation Plan is not complete at this time. However, included in the packet was a copy of the results of the survey sent out with the May utility bill. There were 264 responses. The survey and results will be included in the Plan. Slown explained how the results will help in modifying the Plan. The goal is to have the draft copy of the Plan for the next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting.

POCKET PARK AT THE ROGERS CITY HARBOR

City Mgr. Slown reported that the Harbor Advisory Committee has discussed the addition of a pocket park at the Rogers City Harbor to be built in memory of Jack Smitka a former member and past Chairman of the Harbor Advisory Committee. Slown explained that the park would be located at the northeast corner of the Harbor where a platform will be built. He further described the construction of the platform. Slown stated that another park will be beneficial to visitors and residents of the City.

P & REC RESOLUTION 2009-07

A motion was made by Comm. Peltz, seconded by Comm. Conley, to recommend that the City Council approves the addition of a pocket park to the Rogers City Boat Harbor area.

Ayes-All, the motion carried.

PLAQUE FOR THE SINCLAIR'S

City Mgr. Slown stated that the City does not have an official policy on naming assets or facilities after someone, this would be a Council decision. Slown further explained that the Commission could make a recommendation to the Council that a plaque be affixed to the gazebo at Lakeside Park to honor the memory of Jim Sinclair and the contributions to the community by the Sinclair family.

P & REC RESOLUTION 2009-08

A motion was made by Comm. Stiller, seconded by Comm. Peltz, to recommend to City Council that a plaque be affixed to the gazebo at Lakeside Park recognizing Marilyn and Jim Sinclair for their contributions to the City. Funding is to come from the City of Rogers City Gift Program.

Ayes-All, the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

♦Sunrise Adventure Bicycle Tour – Anne Belanger reported that to date 133 people have registered for the Sunrise Adventure Bicycle Tour.

♦Optimist Park – Comm. Peltz stated ~~the Optimist Club is working on funding to purchase a covered gazebo at the Optimist Park.~~ amended at July 15, 2009 to read “the Optimist Club is looking into the possibility of in the future putting a gazebo at the Optimist Park”.

He also reported on the status of the tire swing and that the new slide has been greatly received.

♦Flowers in the Parks – Comm. Stiller reported that flowers have been planted in some of the parks. The flowers were purchased by both the City and the Stiller's. She also reported that the Wacky Weeders have been busy weeding and adding mulch to areas in the City Parks.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Michelle LaBar
Chairperson

Janet M. Nowak
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer