

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Chr. LaBar at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present – Del Conley, Art Getzinger, Jackie Langlois, Mike Peltz, Tom Sobeck (4:10 pm), Debbie Stiller, Rick Wagner, and Michelle LaBar.

Absent – Ralph Stedman.

Also present: Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Janet Nowak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Comm. Conley, seconded by Comm. Wagner, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 20, 2008.

Ayes – All, motion was carried.

CITIZENS APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMISSION:

Kathy LaLonde (Rogers City Resident) stated she utilizes Lakeside Park more now that she has a child. She voiced her concerns about the disrepair of the playground equipment on the south end of the park, i.e., baby swings, glider swing, and merry-go-round. Also, the concrete that the swing set posts are set-in are exposed and a safety hazard. Chr. LaBar thanked LaLonde.

Neil Burchett updated the Commission on the geo caching event that took place at the 40-Mile Point Lighthouse on July 12th. Over forty (40) people attended the event. He has been receiving e-mails from people who are coming to this area for geo caching. Burchett stated this side of Northern Michigan is becoming a geo caching destination. The plan is to repeat the geo caching event the summer of 2009.

REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

REPORTS:

REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF – None.

PARKS DAY – FOLLOW-UP

Chr. LaBar reported on the Parks Day that took place September 13th. She stated Mayor Hall thanked the Commission for their work on the event. LaBar handed out a list of the comments that people submitted on the Parks Day. There was a brief discussion about the comments. Neil Burchett stated the write up in the *Presque Isle Advance* did not give much idea of what events were going on at the Trout River Park, so he did not have many people geo caching. Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Nowak reported on the comments from the NEOS presentation. A brief discussion ensued on the NEOS game, which was well received. Chr. LaBar thanked everyone for their participation during the Parks Day.

COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN

Rogers City Area School Supt. Dan Byrne was in attendance to work with the Commission on the Recreation Plan. Chr LaBar explained that input is needed from the School on their section of the Community Recreation Plan. Byrne stated that he will work on it. The Commission discussed the recreation goals, pages 34-36. The consensus is that the City is more planned-activities orientated. Chr. LaBar stated that with the City website, it will be easier to get information to the public about activities. The City's website is still in the planning stages and the City is in the process of hiring a webmaster. Discussion ensued on other ways to inform individuals who do not have access to the internet about planned activities, i.e. Channel 12 and newspaper. A brief discussion was had about the Public Works Park, which is an underutilized park. Several suggestions were offered on ideas for the park, i.e. frisbee golf, exercise course, or hedge maze, and adding a parking area with a bike rack. Chr. LaBar stated the recreation goals are not saying we have to do it, but is a possibility for the future. The Commission further discussed the recreation goals, with the following changes and additions:

Remove the first five lines of the first paragraph. Start the paragraph with "Goals are value-based statements that are not necessarily measurable".

- Goal A:
 - Continued communication and cooperation with units of government, agencies and organizations involved in recreation development and programming such as:
 - Change Parks and Recreation Committee to "Commission".
 - Add Churches and Senior Center to the list.
 - Change Museum to "Museum/Nautical Museum".
- Maximum use of existing information and funding resources such as: No changes.

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- Made available by agencies such as:
 - Add “Presque Isle County Conservation”.
 - Objective 1: no change.
 - Objective 2: In the first line remove “the” before Rogers City.
 - Objective 3: remove “such as shoreline protection, water and sewer, and other infrastructure systems”.
 - Objective 4: No change.
 - Goal B: No change.
 - Goal C: No change.
 - Objective 1: No change.
 - Objective 2: City Mgr. Slown will need to verify that there are no additions or changes.
- On page 36, second paragraph from the bottom, change the first sentence to “In addition to the above listed funding programs”.

The action plan, pages 37-39 will be discussed when City Mgr. Slown can give funding information and DPW Supt. Roger Wenzel can assist with the content. However, there was a brief discussion about the action plan with the following changes to be made:

- To Annual Recreation Projects and Programs add “Summer Recreation Program”.
- On page 39, add “Harbor View” and to South Shore Park add “Optimist Club Playground”.
- Also discussed was property the City owns that is adjacent to the Gilpin Field.

OTHER BUSINESS:

■ Playground Equipment - Comm. Peltz was approached by someone about donating a used piece of playground equipment for one of the parks. He does not know what condition the equipment is in or how large it is.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was declared adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Michelle LaBar
Chairperson

Janet M. Nowak
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer