

# Parks Commission

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 9, 2016  
6:00 p.m., Council Chambers



City of South Haven

### 1. Call to Order by Toneman at 6:00 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

Present: Jeff Arnold, Dorothy Cobbs, Marilyn White, Warren Toneman  
Absent: Bob McAlear, Chuck Moore, Patti Reinert

Also present: Kathy Burczak, LLA, ASLA, Senior Landscape Architect, Abonmarche  
Tony McGee, Director of Development Services, Abonmarche

### 3. Introduction of new Council Representative, Jeff Arnold

### 4. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Arnold, second by White to approve the February 9, 2016 Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

All in favor. Motion carried.

### 5. Approval of Minutes for the Record – December 8, 2015

Motion by Arnold, second by Cobbs to approve the December 8, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

All in favor. Motion carried.

### 6. Public Comments and Inquiries Concerning Items not on the Agenda.

None at this time.

## REPORTS

### 7. Project Updates.

Halberstadt commented that the city has received a notice of pending funding award for the Bicycle Pump Track from the Michigan DNR Recreation Passport Program.

The Monroe Boulevard property acquisition is complete and those four (4) parcels have been placed in the Parks system.

Halberstadt noted that work on the grant funded projects typically must wait until the state issues a formal notice of award.

The Water Street streetscape was included and Halberstadt noted that this is being moved through various boards and commissions; the design will then be tweaked based on comments received.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **8. Commission will be requested to review an updated drawing of the proposed Splash Pad.**

Halberstadt reminded that the Parks Commission was first shown this concept in 2013 and at the time commissioners expressed universal desire to see it located at the west end of Riverfront Park. Halberstadt pointed out the various amenities in the existing park and restrooms, noting we are trying to locate funding to do some work updating the restrooms, also eliminate the parking lot, allowing the splash pad being closer to the restrooms and eliminate the pedestrian hazard (walking thru the center of the parking lot).

Discussion ensued regarding enlargement of the restroom building. Halberstadt then pointed out the extension in relation to the splash pad.

Halberstadt introduced Kathy Burczak who explained the overall plan explaining how the gradient is planned and the sitting area in conjunction with the restrooms and concession and the splash pad. Burczak noted that the splash pad is operated by activators rather than running 24/7, which conserves water usage, and pointed out the seat walls around the perimeter.

Burczak noted that several plans were designed and the theme which came to the forefront was based on the city's tall ship, the Friends Goodwill and the War of 1812, including barrels; treasure chests; different types of splash activities that will accommodate different kids' desires; the stern and bow replications of the Friends Good Will; a nautical theme; and the flag of 1812 on the mast. In response to a question about materials, Burczak noted that a combination of colored and natural concrete will be used for the basis of the structure. Seat walls are being used to take care of the gradient differential. The seat walls will be about 15 to 18 inches high; with landscaping around the exterior and a spot that houses the system for the mechanism for the splash pad operation. Burczak noted that the splash pad will also be fenced in so it will contain the kids in that area, explaining that controlled access is designed into this plan as well as ADA accessibility.

Arnold asked what the net loss of parking will be after removing the parking lot to which Halberstadt responded that there is no loss of parking.

Burczak pointed out the ADA parking spots adjacent to a sloped ramp that takes people into the restroom, concession and splash pad seating area.

White asked whether there will be water coming out of the stern feature, Burczak said the designers are working with the water company which will custom design it to make it look as close as possible to the actual Friends Good Will, with water features, within the budget.

Halberstadt asked what the stern and bow will be made out of; which Kathy noted is being designed and Abonmarche will be working closely with a group who makes play structures and have recently purchased a water arcing company, which performs as a subsidiary to the play structure business.

Toneman noted it seems like two small projects (restroom renovation/expansion and splash pad) have been brought together into one congruent project.

Burczak noted that the splash pad is planned to have capacity for around 100 children.

Discussion was noted about the seating area not having a canopy for shade which Burczak noted can be added later, explaining they are pretty pricey. Discussion ensued about shade trees, metal umbrellas for over tables and any other options to provide shade.

Toneman stated he is glad to see the splash pad project moving forward and asked about when it can be started. McGee explained that the City will be applying for the grant on April 1, 2016 and it would be fall 2017 before construction could be started. Halberstadt explained that the Parks Commission will be asked to recommend a resolution to City Council for approval.

Toneman suggested coming up with something for shade options, because he thinks trees are messy, while steel umbrellas or canopies would be preferable. Burczak said she would show something with a sail look, similar to what she had originally designed, mirroring the nautical design. Burczak will look for funding and noted that some dermatology groups were offering grants a few years back.

Arnold noted that before planning for trees you will want to ask the people who plan the water works; they may not want tree debris in the system. Burczak said she will add in the canopy or other shade mechanism and send to Halberstadt, who can forward it to the commissioners.

## **9. City Engineer Comments**

Due to the introduction of a new Commission member and the small quorum anticipated at the February meeting, further review and adoption of the revised City Gift Policy will be scheduled for the March meeting.

## **10. Commissioner Comments**

There were no comments.

## **11. Adjourn**

Motion by Arnold, second by White to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom  
Recording Secretary