

Parks Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 10, 2015
6:00 p.m., Council Chambers



City of South Haven

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

2. Roll Call

Present: Fitzgibbon, McAlear, Moore, Toneman, Reinert
Absent: Cobbs, White

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Fitzgibbon, second by Toneman to approve the November 10, 2015 Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

All in favor. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes for the Record – September 15, 2015

Motion by Moore, second by McAlear to approve the September 15, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes as written.

All in favor. Motion carried.

5. Public Comments and Inquiries Concerning Items not on the Agenda

None at this time.

REPORTS

6. Black River Park Accessible Boat Launch – Construction Update

Halberstadt updated the board on the construction being done by Jenson Excavating and to be followed by a company that installs the accessible portion of the launch equipment. Halberstadt noted that to meet the criteria of the grant, the lift will be installed by the deadline and then removed for the winter.

Discussion ensued regarding the location of the boat launch.

In response to a question by Moore regarding the purpose of the launch, Halberstadt explained that it is for access by people with handicaps and is designed for single-person water craft.

Reinert suggested Halberstadt take a look at the kayak launch area near the Maritime Museum, which she said is in bad repair and she feels is kind of dangerous. Reinert stated that it is not used a lot but it is used, particularly by people who rent water craft from the nearby rental store.

NEW BUSINESS

7. Commission will be requested to continue review of the City Gift Policy.

Moore commented that there is a phenomenal gift policy included in the packet; Reinert noted there are a couple of policies. Reinert suggested reviewing it before the next meeting and emailing suggestions/comments regarding the proposed draft gift policy.

Halberstadt stated that the board previously liked the Grand Haven policy and he merged information from the Grand Haven policy and the current South Haven policy in an attempt to clarify more issues.

Reinert reminded that the board had talked about really looking into the future to see what we have on the table for the next several years; with people wanting to have something to donate that we would be looking at trying to determine things we are going to need in the future. Halberstadt noted that he did look at that, such as Item 6A, which addresses needs at certain facilities, to try to encourage people to make donations at those locations. Halberstadt described this like a general framework for dealing with donations.

Moore would like to take more time to look at the proposed gift policy which Halberstadt said is fine. "If you do not feel like making a decision on it tonight, take it home and read through it; if you have comments send them to me over the next month."

Discussion ensued regarding the difference in time frame based on maintenance issues and life of the donation. Moore asked if there is a maintenance fund; Halberstadt said if there will be maintenance needs, staff would like to try to make an agreement with the donor in writing where they acknowledge they will contribute to maintain it.

Toneman asked, "If a wealthy donor wanted to contribute the splash pad, for example, would they also have to pay maintenance?" Fitzgibbon said, "That is a very good question. It would be a tax deductible donation for the donor and if the city is already planning to do that, the city might step forward to do the maintenance." Halberstadt agreed and noted that the city did a license agreement with HASH regarding the bricks down near the lighthouse and explained that there would a contribution by the city for maintenance.

McAlear pointed out the wording in the existing policy and discussion ensued regarding who would pay for what and how that would be negotiated. McAlear also pointed out that longevity is addressed in the proposed policy. Moore said if someone wants to donate a bench, the policy states there is a finite life span and the city reserves the right to replace the bench, after an attempt to contact the donor to see if they want to replace it. If unable to contact the donor, then it would be open for someone else to donate a replacement. After

questions, McAlear noted his experience from insurance work is that contact is attempted at the last known address and that is considered appropriate. Fitzgibbon noted that the onus would be on the donor to provide changes of contact information. Halberstadt said it is a fine balancing act to not make it so restrictive that no one wants to donate anything but to leave some things open to the discretion of staff.

Reinert suggested all go back and take a look. If clarifications are needed, those recommendations can be made and this item put on the agenda for next month's meeting.

8. Commissioner Comments

Moore asked for an update about the beach flags which Halberstadt noted was discussed at the last meeting and will be implemented in the spring.

Moore asked for an update about the cemetery. Halberstadt said he thought we asked Abonmarche for a proposal and he has not seen that come across his desk.

Moore asked for an update on Black River Park. Halberstadt said he hoped to bring that back this month but Abonmarche is working on the design and are not far enough along to bring a design to us.

Toneman thanked Halberstadt for coming out and looking at the streets when they were doing the street project. Expressed concern about School Street from Erie to the Farmer's Market; noted that he was assured that the next project is going to be Huron; stated that there really needs to be a crosswalk where people in cars have to stop to let pedestrians out of the Farmer's Market. Expressed the need for a better pedestrian walkway. Discussion ensued about who is responsible for that which Halberstadt thought is more DDA than anything. Toneman hopes that there could be a sidewalk on one side of the street or other for people to get out of Farmer's Market.

Fitzgibbon had a question about the date for the December meeting which will fall on the 8th.

Moore asked for an update on the Water Street plan. McAlear said he checked with the neighbors and it is not the low income housing, but restaurant workers, who are hanging around and smoking. Reinert said there were two concerns, that is was an eyesore and that it will block the view. Toneman said he thinks it is a great plan and McAlear said the size of the platform was the concern; that it could be a place to hang out. Halberstadt said if we do not put benches with the project someone will be here and want to donate a bench. Fitzgibbon said we are not making a park. Halberstadt said there were benches in the plan.

Reinert asked the status on the finishing touches on Dyckman Beach. Halberstadt it will probably be part of the North Shore Drive project although we might try to do the park a little sooner.

Reinert noted it is good to have follow-up.

9. Adjourn

Motion by Toneman, second by McAlear to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom
Recording Secretary