Parks Commission

Regular Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, January 14, 2014
6:00 p.m., Council Chambers

City of South Haven

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
4. **Approval of Minutes –** October 8, 2013
5. **Public Comments and Inquiries Concerning Items not on the Agenda**
6. **Dog Park**
7. **City Park "Kids Corner" Name Change Request**
8. **Adjourn**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Brandy Gildea
Parks and Recreation Supervisor

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Parks Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 08, 2013
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: Cobbs, Toneman, White, Reinert
   Absent: Comeau, Fitzgibbon, Moore

3. **Approval of Agenda**

   Motion by Toneman, second by White to approve the agenda as presented.

   All in favor. Motion carried.

4. **Approval of Minutes –** August 13, 2013

   Motion by Toneman, second by Cobbs to approve the August 13, 2013 regular meeting agenda as written.

   All in favor. Motion carried.

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

   None at this time**.**

6. **Elkenburg Park – Phase II**

   Gildea overviewed the progress so far for Phase II of Elkenburg Park and pointed out the list of priorities in the packets which were developed at the last Elkenburg Park Redevelopment meeting.

   After questions, Gildea explained that the recommendation to City Council could include items one (1) through four (4), six (6) and seven (7), except on Item 4, reduce the number of trash receptacles from four (4) to two (2).

   Toneman asked for reassurance that the playground will be a really nice one.

Gildea noted that the only priority that was suggested but not included was the fencing.

Motion by Cobbs, second by White to recommend the City Council consider the approval of using the remaining funds from the Elkenburg Park grant, in the estimated amount of $78,665, to fund the following items from the priority list that will total an estimated $78,340:

# 1 Playground Equipment	$55,000
# 2 Security Camera System	$2,600
# 3 Bike Racks	$500
# 4 Trash Receptacles (quantity of 2, not 4)	$2,500
# 6 Bleachers	$13,360
# 7 Sign	$2,520
# 8 Player Benches	$1,860

All in favor. Motion carried.

7. Pump Track

Gildea introduced Tony McGhee, Business Development Director and Timothy Drews, Engineering Group Director and Vice President from Abonmarche.

McGhee gave an explanation of the concept of a pump track, the way they are constructed and responded to questions regarding maintenance; dealing with run-off on the site; the popularity of pump tracks across the state; fencing and parking.

Drews answered questions regarding the difference between the novice and advanced areas of the track; shade trees, grass and other landscaping and materials used in constructing the track.

Motion by Cobbs, second by White for staff to continue moving forward with the pump track as proposed.

Yeas: Cobbs, White, Reinert
Nays: Toneman

Motion carried.

8. Adjourn

Adjourn at 6:17 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
Marsha Ransom
Recording Secretary

Parks Commission	**Staff Reports**

Agenda Item

Dog Park

Background Information:

The City has been contacted by the South Haven Dog Park Board to see if there is interest in developing a dog park on municipal property in the future. Their lease for the property of the current dog park expires in 2015.

Recommendation:

Review the information presented in the agenda packet from the South Haven Dog Park Board and come prepared to discuss if it would be beneficial or meet our recreational goals for the City to have a municipal dog park.

Support Information:

South Haven Dog Park Board Information

South Haven Dog Park, Inc.

Summary

Dog parks have become a popular addition for many municipalities in recent years. Many cities have dedicated a portion of their parks to be used as off-leash areas for people and their dogs. While not always without controversy, these areas often become one of the most popular areas within a community's park system. A dog park is truly a multigenerational activity, and can be seen as ***enriching the quality of life for all residents, full- and part-time***. Despite what opponents say, dog parks are used many times by citizens and visitors who would not otherwise participate in organized sports. Many out of town visitors to the South Haven community expect to find a dog park here, since they are so popular in larger urban areas.

South Haven Dog Park is currently not part of the city's park system. It is a member's only dog park located on the 8th St. on the land between Al-Van Humane Society and Do-It Corporation. It was built and is maintained with member donations of time and money. We operate on a very slim budget. Our current membership dues are $25 per year.

What are the benefits of a Dog Park?

- Big Benefits to the Community – Dog parks are truly a multigenerational park activity. Despite what opponents say, dog parks are more for people than for dogs, because they attract the adult users who vote to support parks and who are more vocal in the community. Relatively low construction costs and low maintenance costs also yield the greatest amount of recreation opportunities for the investment, and there is a low (if any) user cost.
- A well-exercised dog is a happier and healthier pet. An exercised pet is more likely to be a better neighbor. Puppies and dogs which get enough exercise by playing in an enclosed dog park are less likely to create a nuisance, bark excessively, destroy property, jump on a passer-by, etc.
- Owning a dog encourages people to exercise. Walking with a dog has been found to stimulate social interaction with other humans and create new friendships.
- Dog parks are more accommodating for physically disabled persons and senior citizens who cannot always walk with their pets.
- Dog parks help eliminate the number of dog complaints from users of other parks (joggers, walkers, picnickers, ball players) when an alternative exercise area exists just for their pets.

Background of the South Haven Dog Park

For many years there has been discussion among the dog lovers in the South Haven community about having a dog park, with the greatest obstacle being the acquisition of land. After meetings and discussion 4 years ago with Mark McClendon and other members of the SHARP (South Haven Regional Park) committee, it was agreed that a portion of that park could be set aside for use as a dog park. The SHARP project looks like it will be a very long process until it will come to full realization. In the short run, it was proposed that we build a park as a "proof of concept" to determine the level of commitment and involvement for a dog park. Mark McClendon has generously leased his land, located next to Al-Van for this use. Our current lease expires in 2015.

The following are some of the people in the community who donated their time, talent and money to this project:
Glenn Sperry (SHDP director) volunteered his legal expertise to create bylaws for SHDP and get 501c3 status.
Gary Gross (SHDP director) designed the dog park fencing, ordered the materials and organized the volunteer work crew.
Mark McClendon donated $5,000 for the fence perimeter.
Other members and directors of SHDP donated money for the interior fencing, Chamber of Commerce membership, printing and mailing costs and insurance.

SHDP Board of Directors

Joan Hiddema- President, Gary Gross- Vice President, Laura Bos- Secretary/Treasurer
J.Glenn Sperry- Director, Sue Frederick- Director, Gary Stringham- Director, Caitlyn Perry Dial- Director

In March of 2012, we started building the park and it was completed in April 2012. Many volunteers who donated their time and in some instances building materials:
Al Ruppert and Hawkshead crew, Mike Bos of Bos Concrete, Tom Thaler and his construction crew. Debest Inc., Ed Appleyard and 30 more community volunteers!

SHDP is a member of the Chamber of Commerce. We sent out an initial membership mailing to all registered dog owners in the 49090 zip code area. We have about 100 members at this time. We have regular board meetings as well as 2 general membership meetings this past year. We have a Face Book page, an email distribution list and web site www.southhavendogpark.com

Our Statement of Purpose:

"A Safe Place for People and their Dogs to Play"

To establish a fenced in, off-leash dog park where well-behaved canine citizens can exercise in a clean, safe environment without endangering or annoying people, property or wildlife. To develop a beautiful, well-maintained space open to all dog lovers and friends who are willing to uphold the park's rules and restrictions. To view this park as a community project, in partnership with the City of South Haven and South Haven Area Recreational Park (SHARP), designed to satisfy the needs of dog-owners and non-dog owners alike.

What are we asking from the Parks Commission.

That you would consider the dog park as a capital project for the city.

We have the volunteers, community support, non-profit structure to run and maintain a dog park, but we don't have land. We need a permanent home! It would be wonderful if the dog park was part of South Haven's park system. Most dog parks are city owned parks. This is would make it more accessible to all dog owners in the city and our out of town visitors. It would also allow us to apply for grants and enter contests for dog park equipment.

Wish List (in order of priority)

3 acres of land with perimeter fencing, divided into 2 large dog areas and 1 small dog area.

Parking area

Water

Lighting

Thank you for your consideration!

Parks Commission **Staff Reports**

Agenda Item

City Park “Kids Corner” Name Change Request

Background Information:

Mr. Michael Ross attended a November City Council meeting and requested the City Council consider changing the name of "Kids Corner" park, to a name that honors his mother. He was advised at this meeting that he would need to present this request to the Parks Commission.

At this time it appears no City Park has ever been renamed, in honor of a person, once it has been established. Mr. Ross was also informed that should he not receive the park name change, that he could consider a memorial program that is available in the City of South Haven such as purchasing a City Memorial Bench. Another option would be to purchase a SHOUT brick to be engraved near the clocks located in Dyckman Park & Ellen Avery Park.

Recommendation:

Review the request and information presented in the agenda packet from Michael Ross.

In reviewing this request, to change the name of an established City Park, in honor/memory of a person, the Parks Commission should consider the following:

A. What is the value of the current name of each City Park?
B. What will be the effects on the community by allowing City Parks to be renamed in honor/memory of a person?
C. If a City Park is allowed to be renamed what procedures should be in place to prevent this park from being renamed the following year for example because another request to have that park renamed has been submitted.

If the Parks Commission wants to see this request approved they should consider a motion to the City Council asking them to consider approving a name change of "Kids Corner" park, to “Marilyn Ross Park” in honor of Michael Ross’s mother.

If the Parks Commission decides that this request, renaming a City park should not be approved, they should consider making a motion requesting staff to work with Michael Ross on Memorial programs that are available in the City where he could honor his mother.

Support Information:

Michael Ross Request Info

Office of the City Manager
South Haven, Michigan
ATTN: Brian Dissette

Michael Ross
857 Saint Joseph Street
South Haven, Michigan 49090

Thank you for taking the time to talk to me at the city council meeting on 18 November 19, 2013. I appreciate all the hard work you do for South Haven.

I am seeking to name the Kids Corner Park, located on the corner of Monroe Blvd and South Haven Street. Wishing to name it Marilyn Ross Park in memory of my Mother, who passed away in 2000. She was born here and lived most of her life at 857 Saint Joseph Street. She was awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism in 1946 for rescuing 3 children from a burning house.(See attached)

I will attend the January 14, 2014 Parks Commission meeting, as advised. I am just trying to meet all people that this may concern.

I hope that the City of South Haven will afford the Memory of Marilyn Ross this measure of remembrance, in the hometown that she loved and cherished.

I can be reached at (706) 550-3951.

Thank you for your assistance, in advance.

Sincerely,

Michael Ross

CARNEGIE HERO FUND COMMISSION

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

This certifies that

MARILYN J. PARK

has been awarded a CARNEGIE MEDAL
in recognition of an outstanding act of heroism:

Marilyn J. Park saved Donald M., Jr., Constance K., and Jean K. Goodwillie from burning, South Haven, Michigan, November 22, 1946. While Donald, 7, and Constance, 5, were asleep in a bedroom that adjoined the living room of their one-story frame home, and Jean, 20 months, was asleep in another room, the house caught fire. Miss Park, 17, schoolgirl, who was in charge of the children in the absence of their parents, ran from the living room into the adjoining bedroom, roused Donald, told him to awaken Constance, and then returned to the bedroom door to observe the fire conditions. Both of the children got out of bed, and Miss Park led them through the living room and the dining room to the kitchen and outside. Re-entering the kitchen, she ran to the living room, then past a hallway that was full of flames, and through another room to the room where Jean slept. Lifting Jean from her crib, she wrapped a blanket around her and ran through dense smoke to the living room. Flames then extended from the hallway into the room. Miss Park stumbled and fell to her knees at the edge of the flames opposite the hallway, but she kept her hold of Jean, got to her feet, and ran to the kitchen and outside. Meanwhile a man had reached the house and had attempted to enter but was forced back by smoke. Jean suffered minor burns. Miss Park sustained burns on her face and one arm which healed within a week.

June 6, 2012

President *Secretary*