

Parks Commission

Regular Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, April 9, 2013
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 – February 12, 2013
5. Public Comments and Inquiries Concerning Items not on the Agenda

NEW BUSINESS

6. Hartman Park
7. Maritime District
8. Adjourn

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Brandy Gildea
Parks and Recreation Supervisor

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Parks Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 12, 2013
6:00 p.m., Council Chambers



City of South Haven

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

Chairman Lewis requested that new member, Patty Montgomery-Reinert, introduce herself to the Board.

2. Roll Call

Present: Cobbs, Comeau, Fitzgibbon, Toneman, Lewis
Absent: Fenske

3. Approval of Agenda

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes – January 8, 2013

Motion by Toneman, second by Fitzgibbon to approve the January 8, 2013 Parks Commission minutes as written.

All in favor. Motion carried.

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

There were none.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Historical Marker/Sign - Location at Packard Park

Anne Moffat, 11 Chippewa Court, South Haven. Requested the plaque commemorating Jewish history and the Michigan pike be moved back to its original site. Listed several reasons to move the sign back to its original site. The greater good. Useful to tourists and visitors using the Historical Association of South Haven (HASH) self-guided tour. Having checked many other historical markers, Moffat noted that the sign in Packard Park is now

further away from the sidewalk and street than any other historic plaque in the City of South Haven.

Remy Rubin, 622 No. Shore Drive, South Haven. Most historic markers, even outside the City, are closer to the road and sidewalk. Noted that many people have come back to South Haven later in life after having fond memories of coming to the resorts as a child.

Jan Leksich, Victoria Resort, Oak Street, South Haven. Was at the dedication and sent many of her guests to that event. Wanted to know who authorized the move and who requested the move. Can hardly see it and some have expressed that they feel it was insulting to move the marker next to the "outhouse". The original site did not block the view of the lake.

Jim Olgaard, 314 Monroe Street, President of the Historical Association of South Haven (HASH) goes on record as supporting Ann and Remy in putting the sign back where it was originally installed.

Motion by Fitzgibbon to return the sign to its original location at installation. Second by Montgomery-Reinert.

Lewis called for discussion.

Fitzgibbon said the moving of the sign did not go through proper channels; we have learned from this that we need to have input from a much broader audience. not just those near the sign. The new application for a sign will help prevent this.

Comeau and Toneman briefly discussed the pros and cons of naming names and having a written record of how this confusion all happened. Toneman asked Gildea if the new application process will prevent this happening in the future.

Gildea went through the chronology of the process used and explained that the new procedure should prevent further confusion.

Fitzgibbon stated her opinion that the city was reacting to neighbors who thought the sign was blocking their view, noting that the problem has been corrected now.

Lewis called the question.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Fitzgibbon to approve a sign application requirement for any sign being placed on public property, second by Cobbs.

All in favor. Motion carried.

7. Adjourn

Motion by Fitzgibbon, second by Cobbs to adjourn at 6: 20 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom
Recording Secretary



City of South Haven

Agenda Item 6 Hartman Park

Background Information:

At the City's January Parks Commission meeting a city resident addressed the commissioners wondering if there could be a playground installed at Hartman Park, given that residents from this area who chose to walk to a city park (Kids Corner/Optimist Tot Lot) with playground equipment have to cross busy streets without traffic signals. The Parks Commission told the resident that they would have staff look into this request and bring it back to the Parks Commission at a later date to review.

The City realizes that any changes to Hartman Park can have a direct effect on the residents. Prior to planning any improvements, the City would like to work with the residents of Hartman Park to get their input and acceptance. To begin the public input process, the City invited the Hartman Park residents to the April Parks Commission meeting. The City sent a letter to all the Hartman Park residents informing them of the request for playground equipment to be placed in the park. Residents were encouraged to attend this Parks Commission meeting or contact staff by email or phone to offer their input and express concerns.

Recommendation:

The Parks Commission should consider; would installing playground equipment be in the best interest for Hartman Park users and residents? Should the Parks Commission wish to proceed with installing playground equipment at Hartman Park they should direct staff to have a park master plan created with costs for the public and Parks Commission to review and approve.

Support Information:

Letter sent to residents (which includes aerial of park)
Emails/letters from residents



City of South Haven

Department of Public Works

DPW Building • 1199 8th Ave. • South Haven, Michigan 49090
Telephone (269) 637-0737 • Fax (269) 637-4778

March 5, 2013

Hartman Park Residents;

At the City's January Parks Commission meeting a city resident addressed the commissioners wondering if there could be a playground installed at Hartman Park, given that residents from this area who chose to walk to a city park (Kids Corner/Optimist Tot Lot) with playground equipment have to cross busy streets without traffic signals. The Parks Commission told the resident that they would have staff look into this request and bring it back to the Parks Commission at a later date to review.

The City realizes that any changes at Hartman Park can have a direct effect on you. Prior to planning any improvements, the City would like to work with the residents of Hartman Park to get their input and acceptance.

To begin the public input process, the City would like to invite you to the April Parks Commission meeting at Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, April 9 at 6:00 p.m. Residents are encouraged to attend this Parks Commission meeting or contact staff by email or phone to offer input and express concerns.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandy Gildea". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Brandy Gildea, Parks and Recreation Supervisor
bgildea@south-haven.com
(Office) 269-637-0772
(Cell) 269 -214- 0007
(Department of Public Works) 269 -637- 0737

Hartman Park Aerial



Brandy Gildea

From: spiffanys@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 9:40 AM
To: Brandy Gildea
Subject: Hartman Park

Dear Ms. Gildea,

I will be unable to attend the meeting on April 9 regarding installing a playground at Hartman Park, so am dropping you this email to let you know I am against any such change. First of all, I live right across the park at 758 Huron and have been able to watch what goes on and partake occasionally in what goes on there since 1996.

Hartman park is very small and is used for picnics, playing frisbee and soccer or "pirates" or bocce or any number of things that keep the kids moving and having fun. It is also used by the high school band for practice and staging before games at Ratcliffe.

Parking and street condition is also a concern to me as well as older kids having another place to hangout after dark. Our area is quiet and safe and I would like it to remain so. I hope this has been helpful. Sincerely, Judith Goblet (639-2166)

Brandy Gildea

From: Sheri Karamas Muhitch [sheri_a1@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 9:41 AM

To: Brandy Gildea

Subject: hartman park

I am a home owner right next to the park @320 hubbard st.

I am opposed to this quiet park being made into a playground.

I purchased this home because it was a park and not a playground.

Also, there are several other playgrounds in the area.

Once again, I am stating I am opposed to this park being made into a playground and feel it is an unnecessary expense. There are many other ways our tax dollars could be better spent during these challenging economic times.

Sheri muhitch

Brandy Gildea

From: frogfuz@voyager.net
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2013 1:02 PM
To: Brandy Gildea
Subject: [EmailDefender SPAM suspect] Hartman Park upgrades-playground equip

My wife and I support the addition of playground equip. at Hartman park. Hopefully, the new trees will take hold and replace the aging maples and will maintain the nice park atmosphere. Basketball court/ball-diamond would probably destroy the park atmosphere, so that we would not support.

In addition, the former road across the north side of park should be re-installed. It was removed in the 1960-1970 era. It would provided parking for park users. If that can't be done then a fence should be installed to prevent users from encroaching on the neighbors bordering on this north line.

Sincerely,

Nels and Dorothy Swanson
754 Michigan Ave.
So. Haven
637-3297

Brandy Gildea

From: Rebecca Winters [rerewinters@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 01, 2013 7:20 PM
To: Brandy Gildea
Subject: Hartman park

Dear Brandy,
I live at 820 Superior St. And I would love to have a park within walking distance for me and my two children.

Thank You,
Rebecca Winters

Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

Brandy Gildea

From: Marjorie Shymske [marjshymske@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2013 10:44 AM
To: Brandy Gildea
Subject: Hartman Park

Dear Brandy, thank you for your letter of March 5, 2013 as it relates to potential playground installed at Hartman Park.
My husband and I are unable to attend the April 9th Commission Meeting and therefore I send you this email as a way of voicing my opinion.

We have owned our property at 332 Prospect, directly across from the park, for 13 years. Our attraction to neighborhood was many, including the park across the street from our home. I appreciate the need to have access to parks and to do so without having to cross busy streets. I am not sure how putting a playground on this site addresses the challenge. Even in this case, you make assumption those that would use the park would not have to cross one of the busiest streets in South Haven, Phoenix. This aside, I am opposed to the addition of a playground at this site for the following reasons.

1. There is no off street parking to accommodate, which would mean cars would be parking on what is already narrow roads, blocking driveways and adding traffic to an otherwise quiet traffic neighborhood.
2. The park today is in a natural state, the large trees, grassy area, it is tranquil and attractive, adding equipment would take away this beauty
3. Concern that this now creates a place for teenagers to meet and "hang out", and while I am sure it would be posted that the park closes at sunset, the City does not have the resources to have the police department patrolling the area to make sure this is not happening.

The Hartman School at one time had a play ground adjacent to the football field. I know because our children played there. I am not sure if it still does, however, this is a perfect spot that could offer same solution, on contained grounds, with ample parking. Why not use what is already available?

I thank you for your consideration and as a resident of this area, would appreciate it if you would confirm receipt of this email as well as keep us posted on what the planning commission is considering.

Thank you.

Marj Shymske
332 Prospect St
630-335-1485



City of South Haven

Agenda Item 7

Maritime District

Background Information:

The concept of a Maritime District was presented during the May meeting but was not accepted and supported because many of the commissioners did not feel they had a clear understanding of the concept. The City Manager feels that it is important that the Parks Commission be in support of this concept prior to it being presented to City Council for approval.

John Marple (manager/owner of Old Harbor Inn) and Patti Montgomery Reinart (Michigan Maritime Museum Director) will be present to give the Park Commissioners a clear understanding of the Maritime District concept. Following is some background information on why the Maritime District is being proposed and who is already in support of it:

Due to its geographic location on Lake Michigan at the mouth of the Black River, South Haven has always been directly tied to its rich maritime history. Since the 1850's when South Haven was first settled, the area was deeply involved with commercial port activities including timber harvesting supplying raw timber to such locations as Chicago and Milwaukee. The timber harvested in the local region led to the creation of valuable farm land that was cultivated by fruit farmers, who primarily grew peaches, blueberries, and apples which led to the expansion of the City as a farming and commercial water port.

Since the early 1900s the tourist industry began in earnest through the development of theaters, a casino, an opera house and amusement parks as well as resorts all directly associated to the City's maritime port. Steamships carrying tourists from Chicago and elsewhere continued to utilize South Haven's maritime port until 1941. The port has continued to provide significant economic base to the Community through its transformation from a commercial maritime port to that of a recreational port.

The Board Members of the Downtown Development Authority support recommendation to the City Council of the City of South Haven that certain property contiguous to the Black River, commencing at the North Pier to the Drawbridge and continuing to South Pier, be designated as South Haven's "Maritime District" in celebration of the City's rich maritime history. Along with the DDA, the Michigan Maritime Museum, the Chamber of Commerce, the South Haven Convention & Visitors Bureau, as well as the Historical Association of South Haven (HASH), officially support this concept.

Recommendation:

Make a motion of support asking City Council to consider accepting the concept of a Maritime District.

Support Information:

Maritime District Support Documents

April 13, 2012

Brian Dissette
City Council Members
City of South Haven

Dear Council Members,

As Executive Director of the Michigan Maritime Museum I would like to express my support, along with full support of the Museum Board of Directors in referring to the geographical area from pier head to pier head as the Maritime District. It is with much appreciation and enthusiasm that this request is being presented before you, and that members of our community recognize the significance of our Maritime heritage and the continuous role it plays in our lives today.

The Museum campus is a natural hub in the center of our harbor, and with the new changes to Williams Street and the viewing platform, we feel most fortunate and will strive to always present a most positive and welcoming image for the city and all that the Museum has to offer. It really opened up the view of the campus and provides a spectacular view of our replica vessels *Friends Good Will* and the *Lindy Lou*!

The collaboration and team effort approach that is apparent and active within our community is wonderful and we feel very proud to take part in these much appreciated improvements that are taking place for all of us. I would like to recognize the Chamber of Commerce, the South Haven Convention & Visitors Bureau, the DDA as well as HASH for taking the time to officially support this proposal.

The designation of the Maritime District will bring honor to our maritime history and recognition of the role it plays in the City of South Haven today. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Patti Montgomery Reinert
Executive Director
Michigan Maritime Museum
info@michiganmaritimemuseum.org

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SOUTH HAVEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

On April 12, 2012 during the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the South Haven Chamber of Commerce.

PRESENT: Sahr Deschaine, Linda Kuhn, Sandi Cagle, Tom Lummel, Shelby Hartman
Paul Hick, Doy Landers, Scott Wall

ABSENT: Bill Wood

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Director Linda Kuhn and supported by Director Doy Landers.

WHEREAS, due to its geographic location on Lake Michigan at the mouth of the Black River, South Haven has always been directly tied to its rich maritime history; and

WHEREAS, since the 1850's when South Haven was first settled, the area was deeply involved with commercial port activities including timber harvesting supplying raw timber to such locations as Chicago and Milwaukee; and

WHEREAS, the timber harvested in the local region led to the creation of valuable farm land that was cultivated by fruit farmers, who primarily grew peaches, blueberries, and apples which led to the expansion of the City as a farming and commercial water port; and

WHEREAS, the commercial shipping continued to thrive with the use of steam ships and schooners arriving in the City's port to transport local goods and commercial fishing; and

WHEREAS, since the early 1900s the tourist industry began in earnest through the development of theaters, a casino, an opera house and amusement parks as well as resorts all directly associated to the City's maritime port; and

WHEREAS, steamships carrying tourists from Chicago and elsewhere continued to utilize South Haven's maritime port until 1941; and

WHEREAS, the port has continued to provide significant economic base to the Community through its transformation from a commercial maritime port to that of a recreational port; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Maritime Museum is dedicated to the preservation of Michigan Great Lakes and waterways maritime history and culture; collecting objects related to the maritime history of the Great Lakes with an emphasis on items pertaining to the state of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, South Haven is blessed with a rich maritime heritage that continues today as an important recreational port utilized by a variety of watercraft.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Board of Directors of the South Haven Chamber of Commerce recommends to the City Council of South Haven that certain property contiguous to the Black River commencing at the North Pier to the Drawbridge and continuing to South Pier (Exhibit A) be designated as South Haven's "Maritime District" in celebration and in recognition of the City's rich maritime history.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED this 12th day of April 2012.



South Haven Chamber of Commerce

4/12/12

Date

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SOUTH HAVEN CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

On March 15, 2012 during the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the South Haven Convention and Visitors Bureau.

PRESENT: ADAMSON, NEWTON, ZEFF, MONTGOMERY, ZUBER, REMER
MARPLE, DAVIDSON

ABSENT: CAGLE, BRAGANINI, BURKERT

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Director NEWTON
and supported by Director REMER.

WHEREAS, due to its geographic location on Lake Michigan at the mouth of the Black River, South Haven has always been directly tied to its rich maritime history; and

WHEREAS, since the 1850's when South Haven was first settled, the area was deeply involved with commercial port activities including timber harvesting supplying raw timber to such locations as Chicago and Milwaukee; and

WHEREAS, the timber harvested in the local region led to the creation of valuable farm land that was cultivated by fruit farmers, who primarily grew peaches, blueberries, and apples which led to the expansion of the City as a farming and commercial water port; and

WHEREAS, the commercial shipping continued to thrive with the use of steam ships and schooners arriving in the City's port to transport local goods and commercial fishing; and

WHEREAS, since the early 1900s the tourist industry began in earnest through the development of theaters, a casino, an opera house and amusement parks as well as resorts all directly associated to the City's maritime port; and

WHEREAS, steamships carrying tourists from Chicago and elsewhere continued to utilize South Haven's maritime port until 1941; and

WHEREAS, the port has continued to provide significant economic base to the Community through its transformation from a commercial maritime port to that of a recreational port; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Maritime Museum is dedicated to the preservation of Michigan Great Lakes and waterways maritime history and culture; collecting objects related to the maritime history of the Great Lakes with an emphasis on items pertaining to the state of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, South Haven is blessed with a rich maritime heritage that continues today as an important recreational port utilized by a variety of watercraft.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Board of Directors of the South Haven Convention and Visitors Bureau recommends to the City Council of South Haven that certain property contiguous to the Black River commencing at the North Pier to the Drawbridge and continuing to South Pier (Exhibit A) be designated as South Haven's "Maritime District" in celebration and in recognition of the City's rich maritime history.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED this 15th day of March 2012.



Lou Adamson
South Haven CVB President

3/15/12
Date

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD MEMBERS OF THE
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

On April 11, 2012 during the regular meeting of the Board Members of the Downtown Development Authority.

PRESENT: Olson, Braun, Burr, Haglund, Marcoux, Marple, Whiteford, Zuckerman

ABSENT: Sass

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Member Braun and supported by Member Haglund.

WHEREAS, due to its geographic location on Lake Michigan at the mouth of the Black River, South Haven has always been directly tied to its rich maritime history; and

WHEREAS, since the 1850's when South Haven was first settled, the area was deeply involved with commercial port activities including timber harvesting supplying raw timber to such locations as Chicago and Milwaukee; and

WHEREAS, the timber harvested in the local region led to the creation of valuable farm land that was cultivated by fruit farmers, who primarily grew peaches, blueberries, and apples which led to the expansion of the City as a farming and commercial water port; and

WHEREAS, the commercial shipping continued to thrive with the use of steam ships and schooners arriving in the City's port to transport local goods and commercial fishing; and

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WHEREAS, steamships carrying tourists from Chicago and elsewhere continued to utilize South Haven's maritime port until 1941; and

WHEREAS, the port has continued to provide significant economic base to the Community through its transformation from a commercial maritime port to that of a recreational port; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Maritime Museum is dedicated to the preservation of Michigan Great Lakes and waterways maritime history and culture; collecting objects related to the maritime history of the Great Lakes with an emphasis on items pertaining to the state of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, South Haven is blessed with a rich maritime heritage that continues today as an important recreational port utilized by a variety of watercraft.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Board Members of the Downtown Development Authority recommend to the City Council of the City of South Haven that certain property contiguous to the Black River commencing at the North Pier to the Drawbridge and continuing to South Pier (Exhibit A) be designated as South Haven's "Maritime District" in celebration of the City's rich maritime history.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED this 11th day of April 2012.



Andrea Olson, Vice Chair
Downtown Development Authority



Date