

Parks Commission

Regular Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, May 14 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 – April 9, 2013
5. Public Comments and Inquiries Concerning Items not on the Agenda

NEW BUSINESS

6. City Hall Landscaping Update
7. Splash Pad
8. Adjourn

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Brandy Gildea
Parks and Recreation Supervisor

Parks Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 2013
6:00 p.m., Council Chambers



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

2. Roll Call

Present: Cobbs, Comeau, Fenske, Reinert-Montgomery, Toneman, Lewis
Absent: Fitzgibbon (excused)

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Fenske, second by Cobbs to approve the agenda as present. All in favor. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes – February 12, 2013

Motion by Reinert-Montgomery, second by Toneman to approve the February 12, 2013 minutes as written. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Hartman Park

Gildea gave an overview of this agenda item.

Jan Meltzer, 316 Prospect Street. Would like to see the park remain the way it is, describing it as an island of peace and tranquility. Children play there; make up their own games; neighbors walk their dogs. Requested that the City leave the trees. Suggested a small swing set at one end of the park. .

Patty Bales, 319 Prospect Street. Lives next to the park; grew up there; kids use the park as a place for natural play; band uses it to practice in on Friday nights; people come and play with their dogs. People, both local and visitors, come in and have a picnic or use it for quiet

time. Where is the parking? Who would maintain it? Are you talking about a full-scale playground? Is it just going to appear all of a sudden like the new trees?

Lois Howard 813 Superior Street. Would like a swing set, not more than that. "We have a terrible time crossing the street at Broadway; if the light were put back on Broadway, we could go to the existing playgrounds." Expressed concern that someone will get hit crossing Broadway or Phoenix.

Mark McClendon 712 Phoenix. Vague recollection of covenants on the park. Suggested that staff check to see if there is something that we are forgetting about.

Chris Baner, 768 Huron Street. Lived there for twenty years; our son has played in the park; we have watched the band play there; t-ballers are playing there tonight; out-of-towners quietly picnic in that park. Hartman Park is a beautiful green space used tremendously as a natural place to play tag, kick-the-can, and other games. There are many other alternatives for play for children in our community. Parking is an issue; street condition is an issue.

Andrew Baner 768 Huron Street. "What are we talking about? Just a swing set sounds reasonable. Do not take any trees out.

Chris Baner, 768 Huron Street. Named two neighbors who could not be here who do not want to see the park changed.

Gildea: No type of equipment has been looked at or determined because she wants this to give the public input, if playground equipment is a desired, working with the public will continue as the process proceeds. "This is the first step."

Chris Morrison, 313 Hubbard Street. Have two (2) small boys; are foster parents; looking into adoption. The kids are stoked about the idea of a playground at the park; Chris is worried about safety. "It (street by the park) is a short cut from the south side of Superior and people scoot through there pretty quickly"; requested a crosswalk or speed bump whether or not new equipment is added. Thinks there could be something subtle added that would not be a detriment to the park.

Erica Morrison, 313 Hubbard Street. Lives directly across from the park. There was play equipment at the Hartman School until it was removed. That was nice when we had small kids. Having playground equipment brought back to behind the Hartman School/Historical Society would be wonderful; no trees gone, safety measures added. Has requested a crosswalk twice and city officials came out twice but nothing has been done.

Peggy McClendon, 712 Phoenix Street. Lived in the neighborhood for twenty-six years; own a rental house facing the park. I have two kids that grew up there; would consider something small that would not crowd the whole park; save the trees. Likes the park the way it is, but times change. "I would like to see more opinions from people in the neighborhood."

Diane Landry, 808 Superior Street. Lives a block from Hartman Park; brought the original request (for playground equipment) because she likes to walk with her grandchildren to parks, not drive. It is hard to cross Phoenix or Broadway. When they bought their home they

thought there was still playground equipment behind Hartman School but was disappointed to find that there is not. Not asking for Tot Lot or Kids Corner, just a small playground for all the neighborhood kids.

Chris Baner 768 Huron Street. Lived there when the playground equipment was behind Hartman; it was taken out for a reason; there were a lot of unattended children playing there. Thinks that behind the school would be a good place for playground equipment. It is safer; it already has pea gravel and it is gated.

Lewis asked how many would object to a swing set.

Andrew Baner. "More detail is needed before the neighbors can answer that question."

Reinert-Montgomery asked if Gildea knew why the playground equipment was removed. Gildea wondered if it was liability and will contact the school and see what she can find out.

Lori Schooley, 762 Phoenix Street. Her children utilize the park to do the running part of it; with childhood obesity activity is important. Playground equipment should be at one end so children have a place to run.

Lewis gave an overview of what he observed and heard so far.

Toneman agrees that this is nothing that can be decided tonight. Went and looked the park over; noted that in the 5-year Recreation Plan we talked about retaining some open land park area. This area fits with the beautiful trees. "We are not even anywhere near deciding anything." Toneman noted the grill and asked about picnic tables. Gildea explained that the tables will be delivered to the park soon. Toneman added that the playground could go behind the historical society, as suggested.

Fenske noted that there are no sidewalks, no parking on the park side of the street.

Gildea pointed out that South Haven is very lucky to have so much park variety and so many parks and beaches, plus the marinas. "We do not want to have all the parks exactly the same; we want to keep variety." The Recreation Plan talks about green space and keeping playground parks; the Parks Commission did not look into budgeting for a playground there this year. Gildea reminded that the City has gotten grants for the Elkenburg Park and South Beach improvements and just applied for one for North Beach updates. Gildea agreed that parking is an issue at the Hartman Park and sidewalks would take away from the amount of existing green space.

Dotson said that park has been there a long time; the band prepares in that park. Recommended that the Parks Commission look very closely at every safety aspect of that little park. There are no sidewalks; no crosswalks; Phoenix Street can be a disaster to cross. "There is a lot of work to go into this before anything can be done."

Lewis asked for a motion.

Comeau responded that he does not see the need for a motion. This seems like a public hearing for public input but we have no plan.

After Lewis asked again about a motion, motion by Comeau to table this item until the commission has more information. Toneman said some want to start and some want to stop. Gildea will contact the school and try to find out why the playground equipment was removed behind the Hartman School/Historical Society. This might take some time to find out whether the city can work with the school to put equipment there. Second by Fenske.

Erika Morrison, 313 Hubbard Street. Would like a crosswalk for the park, whether or not any playground equipment is added.

Fenske asked Dotson who in the city would need to be talked to about a crosswalk. Dotson said we need to sit down with the city engineers and the Department of Public Works director.

Lewis called the motion.

All in favor. Motion carried.

7. Maritime District

Lewis noted the district being referred to includes both sides of the river up to the bridge.

Gildea asked John Marple to explain the concept.

John Marple, 515 Williams Street, manager of Old Harbor Inn. Apologized that he was not at the last meeting. Noted that the interpretive sign was removed from the Williams Street area during the reconstruction. The displays gave a basic introduction about the rich maritime heritage we have here in South Haven, beginning in the 1850s with lumbering and shipping, then steamships and around 1900 tourism started. We have a very rich maritime heritage; a number of us business people would like to have a plaque commemorating this heritage. Hope to rebuild/renew all the interpretive signage, maybe even add a few. Create some signage within the downtown district that will let people know we have a harbor front.

Marple noted all of the entities that have given their support to take this proposal to the City Council. "If you read Gildea's memo and the letters of support you should understand what we are trying to do."

Comeau expressed concerns with the boundaries and legal descriptions of the Maritime District. Marple said there are no legal descriptions; it is not a taxing district. It is just branding a certain area of our town as the Maritime District. Fenske asked if there was a map. Marple said the proposed Maritime District basically follows the harbor walk. Toneman said when this came before us at the last meeting, the concern was that the board did not know exactly what you were asking about.

Toneman said we understand all the reasons to do it. "But we wonder about someone who has a B & B across the street, will they feel like they cannot be in it?" Fenske questioned, "What about All-Seasons Marina, which is a big business?" Marple reiterated that the

Maritime District is basically the Harbor Walk; the district has no legal authority The Nichols Hotel can advertise they are in the Maritime District if they want to, according to Marple.

Comeau stated that there are boundaries; there is a map; so that is a legal description. "Who has the authority to change who is in or out? The issue of boundaries and legal descriptions will be there." "No one is going to make a determination whether a certain entity will be included or not," according to Marple. Comeau stated he is pro-history but, does not think tourists have any problem determining where the water front is.

Patty Reinert-Montgomery explained that the City Manager wants to be able to put up directional signage pointing people to the Maritime District, even as the City already has directional signage indicating "Downtown" and "North Beach." Comeau wants to have the private sector involved. Marple noted that the private sector will be involved in providing the signs and that he understands the legal issues but he disagrees with Comeau.

Lewis noted that he thinks the Commission will look rather foolish if everyone else is comfortable supporting or recommending the Maritime District. Reinert-Montgomery said the request is just to support the concept. Fenske said we have to be true to our own self, not just do it because everyone else does it. Comeau had an issue with a map depicting the Maritime District but being unclear of exactly what is included. Reinert-Montgomery said the map is not of the Maritime District but of the Harbor Walk. Comeau pointed out that the map could just be crumpled up then.

Motion by Toneman to accept the concept of the Maritime District for the City of South Haven. Second by Cobbs.

Lewis called for discussion. Since there was no further discussion, Lewis called the question.

Ayes: All. Motion carried.

Fenske was in city hall a couple of days ago picking up her packet and did not see the Parks Commission on the calendar board. Gildea will talk to the city clerk.

Reinert-Montgomery asked for an update on progress with Elkenburg Park. Cobbs is excited to see the progress. Gildea said the contractors are on schedule and hope to open by Memorial Day. Comeau asked about holding a grand opening.

Motion by Reinert-Montgomery, second by Toneman to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom
Recording Secretary



City of South Haven

Agenda Item 6

City Hall Landscaping Update

Background Information:

Last June the Parks Commission approved a landscaping master plan for City Hall. In December the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) applied for a Downtown Infrastructure Community Development Block Grant (DIG grant) for the Phoenix Street Improvement project. In order to meet grant stipulations, rain gardens needed to be added to the project. City Hall property was the best location along Phoenix St. for the rain gardens to be added. The rain gardens will demonstrate the ways in which urban storm water can be treated to offer more benefit for the environment than the conventional approach of dumping runoff directly into the drains. Due to adding the rain gardens to City Hall, the master plan was revised.

Pat Cornelisse, of Cornelisse Design Associates, Inc. who has been working with the City's engineering department will be present to explain and answer any questions about the changes to the City Hall landscaping plan and how it flows with the rest of the Phoenix Street project.

Support Information:

City Hall Improvements – Dig Fund
City Hall Improvements – Future Phase

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Brandy Gildea
Parks and Recreation Supervisor



DIG Funded

City Hall Improvements

City of South Haven, MI



Future Phase

City Hall Improvements

City of South Haven, MI



City of South Haven

Agenda Item 7

Splash Pad

Background Information:

City staff is interested in developing a plan for a splash pad. Having a splash pad in the city is a great amenity to add to the parks system and it goes right in-line with our city recreational goals. One of the biggest issues that the city addresses is watery safety. Residents and tourist want to be able to be in the water to cool down during the hot summer months but the water conditions are not always accommodating. Many cities have started adding splash pads to their communities to provide a safe place for people to play and cool down. A splash pad contains many aquatic play features which have approximately zero depth standing water, resulting in reduced drowning risks. A splash pad also provides easy access for water play to young children, elderly and people with disabilities.

To start this process the city must decided on where the best location for a splash pad would be. Abonmarche has performed site visits to various parks and open spaces around the community to assess each area for the development of a new splash pad. Staff would like the Parks Commission to narrow it down to the top three locations. Once these three locations are chosen, the City will request that Abonmarche do additional studies of these three areas to help determine which the best location is.

Based on Abonmarche's initial site visits the three locations they feel have the best potential for the successful development of a new splash pad are Stanley Johnston Park, Riverfront Park and Black River Park. They have included aerials of these three areas to give you an idea of where a splash could be located within these parks.

Recommendation:

Review the Abonmarche splash pad site visit assessments on the parks and open spaces. Make a recommendation to city staff on which three locations Abonmarche should complete further studies on.

Support Information:

Abonmarche Assessment Letter
Aerials of Abonmarche's top three locations

April 25, 2012

Brandy Gildea, Parks and Recreation Supervisor
City of South Haven
539 Phoenix Street
South Haven, Michigan 49090

Re: Proposal for Professional Services – Splash Pad Study

Dear Ms. Gildea:

As part of the interest by the City of South Haven to develop a splash pad as part of its parks and recreation system, it was requested that Abonmarche staff perform site visits to various parks within the community's parks system to assess each for the development of a new splash pad amenity.

Abonmarche's engineers, landscape architects, and planners have a great deal of depth in the planning and design of recreational spaces that include water elements. A good example of this experience is the Silver Beach Center and Whirlpool Compass Fountain in St. Joseph Michigan. A project experience sheet on this project as well as other examples of our park planning and design work is included for your review.

Our assessments of each park were based on developing a splash pad with a \$250,000 construction budget. In total, Abonmarche staff performed site visits to eight different parks to determine each park's feasibility for the development of a new splash pad water feature. Following are brief assessments of each park visited as part of our site visit.

Elkenburg Park

Elkenburg Park's location within a traditional residential neighborhood that has relatively high density levels makes it an attractive location for the development of a splash pad. However, the improvements currently underway to the park will be filling a significant amount of the park's available green space. Given the improvements underway within the park, the necessary open space necessary for the development of a quality splash pad is questionable at best. Furthermore, there is a concern that the available parking around the park is not sufficient to support the use of a splash pad amenity.

Kid's Corner

Like Elkenburg Park, the location of Kid's Corner within a traditional neighborhood makes it an attractive location for the development of a splash pad. Given the target audience of a splash pad tends to be youth and adolescents, the existing amenities in the park match well

with a new splash pad. Additionally, the view-shed from the park out over Lake Michigan would be a draw to users of the splash pad. There are two significant issues that were identified with the construction of a splash pad within Kid's Corner. First, the splash pad's construction would result in the loss of an existing amenity with the park, the baseball field. Secondly, an assessment of the available parking around the park raises concern that enough parking will not be available for persons to fully enjoy this amenity.

Stanley Johnson Park

The upside of placing a splash pad within Stanley Johnson Park are the availability of both the necessary land and parking necessary for the successful construction and use of a new splash pad. The park's central location within the community also make it an attractive location for the development of a splash pad. The primary downside to the development of a splash pad within the park is the potential loss of a number of the old growth trees in the park to clear the needed space for a splash pad.

Optimist Tot Lot

The primary positive attribute to the development of a splash pad within the Optimist Tot Lot Park is its location in the middle of a traditional neighborhood with good density. The downside to the location of a splash pad in the park is it would result in the loss of the existing baseball/softball field as well as a severely limited number of parking opportunities which would reduce the ability of persons to use it who were not within walking distance of the park.

Riverfront Park/South Beach

The primary downside to the development of a splash pad within this park is it would result in the loss of green space along the river within this popular park. There are several positives to the development of a splash pad in this location that focus on the fact that South Beach is the primary beach in the community used by families. A splash pad in this location would create an amenity for families using the beach who have children who are too young to swim in Lake Michigan or an as alternative water feature for beachgoers to use when visiting the beach but who are cautious to use the water when dangerous conditions are present such as rip currents. Finally, with the recent redevelopment of the South Beach parking lot coupled with available parking on Water Street helps maximize accessibility to this location for persons not within walking distance of the park.

Packard Park

There are limited positive attributes to the location of a splash pad within Packard Park. Negative attributes include the fact that the development of a splash pad would use virtually all of the available green space within the park. Furthermore, the elevation change between the parking area within the park and the likely location of a splash pad would result in additional costs as accessibility between the parking lot and splash pad area would have to be greatly improved.

Black River Park

Currently, Black River Park has a limited number of amenities outside of the existing boat launch, fish cleaning station, and the river itself. The downside of the development of a new splash pad in this location is its relative isolation from the rest of the community and its visitors. Positive attributes to this location include the ready availability of land for the splash pad's development, ample parking within the existing boat launch facility and land available for the development of additional parking if desired and necessary. Furthermore, while currently relatively isolated, the development of a splash pad in the park could serve as a catalyst for the further development of additional amenities and recreational opportunities within the park. This potential is further underscored by the placement of the adjacent Celery Pond into a restrictive covenant with the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy.

Hartman Park

As with Packard Park, there are limited positive attributes to the development of splash pad within Hartman Park outside of its location in a traditional neighborhood that has limited existing recreational opportunities. Negative attributes include the fact that there is virtually no parking available around the park and the development of a splash pad in the park would result in the removal of numerous old growth trees which are currently one of the best attributes of the park.

To further determine the viability of the development of a splash pad in one of the above parks, additional study and design work is required. If desired, Abonmarche is prepared to continue the evaluation of a splash pad within one of the community's parks including estimating total development costs and performing preliminary design and layout. The cost to undertake this work would be **\$1,500 per park**. Based on our initial site visit, the parks with the best potential for the successful development of a new splash pad include Stanley Johnson Park, Riverfront Park/South Beach, and Black River Park. If the City of South Haven would like Abonmarche to continue determining the feasibility of a new splash pad in one of these parks or any of the other ones visited, please indicate so in the chart below by placing a Y for yes or a N for no.

Park	Assess (Y/N)
Elkenburg Park	
Kid's Corner	
Stanley Johnson Park	
Optimist Tot Lot	
Riverfront Park/South Beach	
Packard Park	
Black River Park	
Hartman Park	

Your signature in the space provided below will serve as authorization to begin work on the project. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this proposal. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 269-927-2295.

Sincerely,

ABONMARCHE



Tony McGhee

APPROVED BY:

DATE:

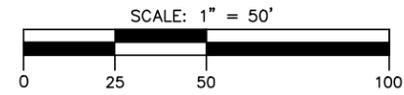
c: Brian Dissette, City of South Haven





PROPOSED
SPLASH PAD
AREA

DUNKLEY AVENUE



SCALE: 1" = 50'

ABONMARCHÉ
Confidence By Design

95 West Main Street
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
T 269.927.2295
F 269.927.1017

Manistee, MI
South Haven, MI
South Bend, IN
Portage, IN

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PROJECT:
**CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN
SOUTH HAVEN, MICHIGAN**

SHEET TITLE:
**PROPOSED SPLASH PAD
STUDY AREA 2
BLACK RIVER PARK**

DRAWN BY: _____
DESIGNED BY: _____
PM REVIEW: _____
QA/QC REVIEW: _____
DATE: **MAY 2013**
SCALE:
HORZ: 1"=50'
VERT: _____
ACI JOB #
P13-002
SHEET NO.

NO.	REVISION DESCRIPTION:	BY:	DATE:
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95 West Main Street
 Benton Harbor, MI 49022
 T 269.927.2295
 F 269.927.1017

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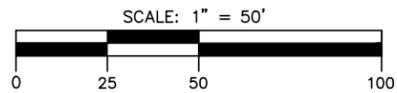
PROJECT:
**CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN
 SOUTH HAVEN, MICHIGAN**

SHEET TITLE:
**PROPOSED SPLASH PAD
 STUDY AREA 2
 BLACK RIVER PARK**

DRAWN BY: _____
 DESIGNED BY: _____
 PM REVIEW: _____
 QA/QC REVIEW: _____
 DATE: **MAY 2013**

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P13-002
 SHEET NO.

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PROJECT:
**CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN
SOUTH HAVEN, MICHIGAN**

SHEET TITLE:
**PROPOSED SPLASH PAD
STUDY AREA 1
RIVERFRONT PARK**

DRAWN BY: _____
DESIGNED BY: _____
PM REVIEW: _____
QA/QC REVIEW: _____
DATE: **MAY 2013**
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P13-002
SHEET NO.

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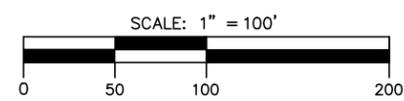


PROPOSED
SPLASH PAD
STUDY AREA

PARK AVENUE

DYCKMAN AVENUE

BLACK RIVER STREET



ABONMARCHÉ
Confidence by Design

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South Bend, IN
Portage, IN

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PROJECT:
**CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN
SOUTH HAVEN, MICHIGAN**

SHEET TITLE:
**PROPOSED SPLASH PAD
STUDY AREA 3
STANLEY JOHNSTON PARK**

DRAWN BY: _____
DESIGNED BY: _____
PM REVIEW: _____
QA/QC REVIEW: _____
DATE: **MAY 2013**
SCALE:
HORZ: **1"=100'**
VERT: _____
ACI JOB #
P13-002
SHEET NO.

3 of 3

NO.	REVISION DESCRIPTION:	BY:	DATE: