

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.

Remey 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 Remey 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