

Parks Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 11, 2012
6:00 p.m., Council Chambers



City of South Haven

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

2. Roll Call

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

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Toneman, second by Fenske to approve the December 11, 2012 regular meeting agenda as presented.

All in favor. Motion carried.

4. Review of Minutes - October 30, 2012 Workshop

5. Approval of Minutes – October 9, 2012

Motion by Fenske, second by Toneman to approve the October 9, 2012 regular meeting minutes as written.

All in favor. Motion carried.

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

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

7. North Beach Plan

Lewis introduced the North Beach Plan by reading the staff report into the record.

Linda Hogan, 44 Grand Boulevard. She and her husband are permanent residents of North Beach. Hogan stated that she is delighted with the prospect of the North Beach improvements and thinks the proposed plan sounds wonderful. Hogan noted that she really

likes the idea of the boardwalk, stating that they are very important as it very difficult for older people and those with handicaps to get from the sidewalk to the waters edge. Hogan feels there is a need for another boardwalk on the other side of the beach or at the middle of the beach. Says she has heard a lot of positive feedback.

Pat Cornalisse, Cornalisse Design Associates: Landscape Architecture. Noted that there are two of the movable walkways on the plan; regarding location she pointed out that the movable walkways could be moved from year to year if there is a need. Cornalisse noted that the walkway by the playground equipment could be extended; the playground area is required to be accessible (barrier-free) and would be more cost effective. Cornalisse said once a grant is acquired additional planning will be done in a more nitty-gritty way.

Toneman asked whether the outdoor seating in front of the concession building could be extended further toward the lake in the future. Fenske asked whether tables are in the sand. There was discussion regarding the tables being picnic tables, not bistro tables, so work fine on sand. There was discussion regarding the size of the concrete pad.

Lewis noted that in conversation with the City Manager Lewis was told that if the North Beach Plan was passed tonight it would help the City in planning for the grant application and for the project. It was noted that the plan was presented to the residents but some residents feel only a handful actually had the opportunity to attend those meetings.

After a question regarding foot showers Cornalisse noted that there are three foot showers planned for the North Beach Project. Fenske noted that a full-body shower would be helpful; especially for people trying to clean their little children up.

Dan Olsen, Concessionaire. Olsen stated that the foot showers really help keep the sand out of the restroom drains and a full shower would be good. Noted there are movable ones with several heads that are available.

Motion by Fenske for City Council to review and approve the North Beach Plan, with the addition of a full-body shower, extended outdoor seating and look into locating a boardwalk closer to the middle of the beach. Second by Toneman.

All in favor. Motion carried.

There was discussion regarding residents with annual beach stickers parking their cars on the beach so their guests can park near the residents' cottages, which causes day trippers to have a hard time finding parking spaces. It was pointed out that some of the cottages in the Monroe Park area do not seem to have any provision for parking at all.

PUBLIC HEARING

8. 5 – Year MDNR Recreation Plan

No one from the public was present for the 5-Year MDNR Recreation Plan public hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. 5 -- Year MDNR Recreation Plan

After questions and discussion, Gildea went over sections 6 & 7. Gildea also explained what the State is looking for in the grant. One example goal is to “encourage health and fitness”. This could include trail connections, equipment that encourages activity, etc.

Gildea pointed out that Parks and Recreation were on this year’s Council priority list; Gildea noted that she feels that Parks will continue to be on Council’s radar.

Fenske asked whether the Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum will be included in the 5-Year Recreation Plan. There was discussion regarding the inclusion of Liberty Hyde Bailey; Gildea said the new curator has been in touch and all of their information has been added to the plan. Gildea also noted that Pilgrim Haven and SHARP will both fall under SHARA (South Haven Area Regional Authority). Gildea noted that the school and the township are reviewing and approving their sections of the plan; the City’s recreation plan expires in March so we would like to get it into the DNR’s hands by February.

Gildea noted that the City has been very fortunate with grants; Monroe Boulevard properties acquired, and a grant to extend the bike path into the city are just two of the grants awarded to the City. Fenske suggested sidewalks along the four (4) Monroe Boulevard properties to make it safer for people unloading and loading children and strollers or persons with handicaps. Toneman wondered about funding for sidewalks and Gildea explained that it would probably come from a combination of funds.

Motion by Toneman, second by Cobbs to approve the 5 – Year MDNR (Michigan Department of Natural Resources) Recreation Plan, changing the priority level of the Optimist Tot Lot fence to medium instead of high.

All in favor. Carried.

Motion by Toneman, second by Cobbs to recommend that City Council approve and adopt the proposed 5 - Year Recreation Plan.

All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Adjourn

Motion by Fenske, second by Toneman to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom
Recording Secretary