



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

January 9, 2017

A meeting of the City of Petoskey Parks and Recreation Commission was held in the City Hall Parkside Room, Petoskey, Michigan, on Monday, January 9, 2017. Roll was called at 7:00 P.M. and the following were:

Present: Roy Pulaski, Chairperson
Amy McMullen, Vice Chairperson
William Hansen, Jr.
Mike Morey
Paul Schemanski
Ken Turk

Staff: Al Hansen, Parks and Recreation Director
Jon Hummel, Downtown Crew Leader

Others Present: Grace Garver
Ally Gill
Alex Graham
Camden Smith
Nicholas Spadafore
Nathan Spadafore

Visitors Welcome

The Director welcomed six members from the Petoskey American Government Class to the meeting and briefly described the agenda and gave them copies of the agenda packets prior to beginning the official meeting.

Minutes Approved

Minutes of the Monday, December 12, 2016 meeting were read and approved. Motion for approval was made by William Hansen, Jr., seconded by Ken Turk, with all members present voting aye.

YEAS: Hansen, McMullen, Morey, Pulaski, Schemanski, Turk (6)

NAYS: (0)

Annual Organizational Meeting and Election of Officers

Commission members were asked to nominate and elect a chairperson to conduct the official meetings of the Parks and Recreation Commission for 2017 and elect a Vice Chairperson to act on behalf of the Chairperson in their absence.

At this time William Hansen, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Ken Turk, that Roy Pulaski remain as the current Chairperson and Amy McMullen remain as Vice Chairperson, with all members present voting aye.

YEAS: Hansen, McMullen, Morey, Pulaski, Schemanski, Turk (6)

NAYS: (0)

Commission members elected not to change the meeting times, which will be held the second Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M.

Sunset Coast Birding Trail Approved

The Director informed Commission members that a group of volunteers from Antrim, Charlevoix and Emmet Counties have worked to establish the Sunset Coast Birding Trail. This is not an actual trail but a map and website which will list birding sites in the three county area and that the purpose of the trail is to attract visitors to this area by highlighting prime birding sites, that demonstrate the diverse natural features of our area and to provide an economic boost, during the shoulder seasons. Commission members were also furnished with detailed information about the Sunset Coast Birding Trail.

Commissioners were further informed that the Bear River Recreation Area had been selected as one of the primary sites that will appear on the birding trail map and will be featured on the website, as well as having a sign posted in the Bear River Recreation Area. Bayfront Park was selected as a secondary site and will be featured on the website only.

Commission members were asked to consider endorsement of the Sunset Coast Birding Trail and allow both the Bear River Recreation Area and Bayfront Park to be primary and secondary sites for inclusion on the trail.

At this time Amy McMullen made a motion, seconded by Paul Schemanski, that the Parks and Recreation Commission hereby supports that the Bear River Recreation Area, the primary site, and Bayfront Park, the secondary site, be part of the Sunset Coast Birding Trail and directed the Parks and Recreation Director to inform the Sunset Coast Birding Trail Organization that their proposal was accepted. All members present voted aye.

YEAS: Hansen, McMullen, Morey, Pulaski, Schemanski, Turk (6)

NAYS: (0)

Winter Sports Park / Winter Carnival Update

Commission members were informed that the Winter Sports Park opened officially on December 22 and 23, 2016, was closed the December 24th, 25th and 26th because of warm weather and reopened on December 27th.

They were further informed that the park was very busy over the school holidays and the skate and food concession generated a good profit.

Commission members were also informed that the downhill skiing and snowboard lessons will begin at Nub's Nob Ski Resort on Sunday, January 22nd and run for three consecutive Sundays and that figure skating lessons would begin on January 10th at the Winter Sports Park.

Commission members were also informed that the Winter Carnival will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2017 and events are planned throughout the day at the park. This year's event will also coincide with planned downtown events held on the same weekend.

Miscellaneous

At this time Ken Turk asked how the search for the Director's replacement was going.

The Director advised that; an interviewing committee had been set up by the City Manager, the committee members were now reviewing applications received for that position, it is anticipated that the interview process will begin in late January, a selection will be made prior to March 1st and that the new Director could report to work on March 1, 2017 and be able to interact with the existing director until March 31, 2017.

At this time the Director also informed Commission members that staff was preparing a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for electrical upgrades at the marina and that prior to April 1, 2017 the Commission will be hosting a public hearing on the grant application.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Director thanked the American Government students for attending the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M. Motion for adjournment was made by Ken Turk, seconded by Mike Morey, with all members present voting aye.

YEAS: Hansen, McMullen, Morey, Pulaski, Schemanski, Turk (6)

NAYS: (0)

The next scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, February 13, 2017 at the City Hall Parkside Room.



Allen L. Hansen
Director of Parks and Recreation