



Royal Oak

Minutes

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

March 7, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Jack and Patti Salter Community Center
1545 E. Lincoln Avenue
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Present:	Melanie Macey Brigitta Burguess Tony Rennpage Sue Wells Hannah Holliday Ryan Danescu Perry Abbey
Absent:	Sarah Kindinger Samantha Grant

1. Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Melanie Macey
Seconded by: Ryan Danescu

Motion to approve the February 1, 2024 with the change of Sarah's attendance to be as members present.

Motion Adopted

3. City Commission Comments

First city budget session review, department request review by what we have funds for, potential funds for and items we do not have funds for. Goes over those items that are funded and items that are delayed, partial funded or fully funded. Ice rink items made the delayed lists.

4. Public Comment

Peter Berg – Pickleball courts live directly across the street from Whittier, read that there are plans to expand the courts from 8 – 10 courts. On behalf of

residents of the park, I would appeal to the advisory board to delay building two new courts indefinitely or make plans to build two courts elsewhere. Whittier Park is already stressed to max and inconceivable that two more courts would benefit neighborhood.

Sean – Great idea to have a skateboard park, lives in Taylor, MI. Read that skateboarding is less dangerous than other sports. Opening one in Northville and other local cities. Like yoga but on wheels. A friend worked with Ralph Wilson foundation to help build one in Ann Arbor. If those can help fundraise, the city will give property to build park.

Jan – Live across the street from Whittier Park, concerned about the expansion of the pickleball courts next year. SMPA site talks about fundraising to add more pickleball courts at Whittier Park. Busy Park with a lot of activity and traffic nestled in a neighborhood. Would like to see expansion plans halted.

Jordan Zupke – came to city council when in high school, got the skatepark in West Bloomfield designed and built. Great for kids, older population, Royal Oak needs one. We have a park that's dilapidated and can be used as a skatepark. People are telling me that kids don't have a place to hangout that's away from video games. We are a major hub in Oakland County neighborhoods. Money going to pickleball courts which is a fad but skateparks has been around and is popular. Wrote original pitch back in 2020. \$500k investment if want to match Ferndale's skatepark. Proximate location near the Royal Oak Middle School. Have connections to help build skatepark.

Christian – Look back on life, not a sports guy was always a skateboarder. Skateboarding can connect people throughout the community. Young people can find mentors while skating at these parks. Work through new tricks and growth process of skating. Has helped me chase my dreams and find myself as an individual. People who do it have strong personalities and believe in themselves. If there is a skatepark, it will be busy.

Daniel – Say a lot of the same things and pitches, have been to a lot of these meetings and spend a lot of time living in Royal Oak. Let's me connect with my children and come together and unite with others. Skating needs to be cognitively whole, needs to be aware. There is a lot of growth and use of the park. Live across from Meininger Park and see kids with nothing to do. With nothing to do those hands can be done to get themselves in trouble. Other cities have it, and it takes a board to really push for it.

Rachel – family is all skateboarders. The community at the skatepark is amazing. Something our kids don't have and need to get out of house and away from video games and a sense of belonging and sense of community. Would like to see it happen in Royal Oak.

Kenny – Owns scroove in downtown Royal Oak. The skateboarding community brings kids and everyone together. Provides kids an opportunity to get out of town. It also helps the local economy of a community.

5. Business

5.a Salter Center Walkthrough

5.b Upcoming DNR Grant Opportunities

- John asks the board to look at our CIP and set up priorities for grants to be able to apply for and some of these grants must appear in the parks and recreation master plan.
- Jill Martin – been here for more than a year and I am seeing a lot of deficiencies. John is only one person, and these submittals take time, a lot of requirements and getting site plans together. These items require a cost. The time to start saying is never the month or so before the submittal due date. There needs to be projects that are looking for grants. Never going to score reaching an underserved population, median income. Do we want to use up the 20 points for smaller items or do we want to earn those points where the scale of the project is larger. Don't want to chase one piece at a park that has a larger scale idea. For a skatepark, we already have a skatepark, it's hard to get another skatepark so do we get rid of the one we have? Ice rink – is this locker room needed? Absolutely. The city is going through facility assessments in other buildings, maybe have one done at the Ice Arena. Prioritize what we do and get those 3- 5 projects we want and get the items we want.
- Abbey – asks Jill to prepare some points for the board to prepare so we can apply for these grants.
- Wells- DNR grants require items in the master plan, other grants don't need to have items in the master plan.
- Danescu – to what extent do we need to have for the grant to be submitted.
- Motion by Brigitte Burguess to make a subcommittee for grant opportunities and leg work for grant opportunities, 2nd by Perry Abbey, motion unanimously approved. Participants: Brigitte Burguess Perry Abbey, Commissioner Macey

- Jill Martin – grants want to supplant funds. What's in the budget is not what you'd write grants for, it's what's not in the CIP or budget is what they'd fund.

5.c Recreation Contract Lease Guidelines

- Wells-First thought was to take a step back in look at a lease arrangement.
- Danescu – thought about items we deem that have value when we look at new agreements/partnerships/goals of collaboration. Collect this information when presented so all pertinent information is received that represents the department, board and city. Tool for collective information.
- Wells – template to be used to note what expenses and investments are being done.
- Macey – collaboration looks great.
- Danescu – walks through collaboration item
 - Amendments to be made and brought back to next meeting.

5.d Senior Center Report

- John's discusses updated on senior renovations and project ideas to wrap up 2024

5.e Staff Report

- John's discusses timeline of improvements to Lockman Park, Dickinson Park, Hudson Park

6. Items Not on the Agenda

Tee marker at Wagner Park @ hole 7 is pulled out and needs to be replaced.

Tree bars at star jaycee park, are loose.

7. Upcoming Events

8. Adjournment

Moved by: Brigitta Burguess

Seconded by: Perry Abbey

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Adopted

9. Next Meeting: April 4, 2024