



Royal Oak

Minutes

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

May 2, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
M/M Senior Center
3500 Marais Avenue, Royal Oak, MI 48073

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

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 minutes of the April 4, 2024 meeting.

Motion Adopted

3. City Commission Comments

Commissioner Macey briefly discussed budget items related to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and encouraged all to read and clarified that "No Mow May" is a voluntary program; resident are not prohibited from cutting their lawns.

4. Public Comment

Max Carson inquired why there was a train at Starr Jaycee Park and requested that a 'ginormous' train be added to Lockman Park.

Laura Berge - 1116 Ferris Ave - expressed concerns about the planned removal of the existing play structure at Lockman Park, and requested that the city maintain the existing one or else install a new one with accessible features.

Max Carson amended his previous comments to also request a mini-waterfall/fountain at Lockman Park.

Jack (last name not provided) - 1200 N Vermont - expressed desire to keep existing play structure at Lockman Park and requested that DPS staff collect leaves in the fall in the wooded area of the park.

Jesse Veenstra - 1126 N Vermont - noted that his children love the existing structure at the park and desires to keep it in place.

Matthew Berge - 1116 Ferris Ave - read an email he sent to city commissioners indicating his preference to keep the play structure instead of removing it as planned.

Ann Petrimoulx - 1032 N Vermont - expressed her appreciation of the park and its proposed improvements, but desires to preserve existing play structure or else adding a new equivalent structure. She suggested improving communications related to park improvements so that neighbors were more aware of project updates/modifications.

Meg Howard - 120 Keyser Drive - echoed comments of other attendees expressing support for maintaining existing play structure.

Max Carson shared a concept drawing of his preferred park amenities.

Kathryn Trepkowski Naas - 2402 N Vermont - expressed concern about the planned removal of the play structure, and expressed her desire to maintain the existing one.

Sarah Carson - 1103 Ferris - communicated desire to maintain existing play structure.

Keith Carson - expressed desire to maintain existing play structure.

Deepak Mangla - 1416 Gardenia - noted that the park as a consideration in his decision to move on to Gardenia, and wishes to maintain the existing structure.

5. Business

5.a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Bylaws Discussion

Susan Barkman led a discussion on the initiative to formalize bylaws for this and other boards/commissions.

The board indicated a preference to remove the 'Officer at Large' position noted in the draft document.

Board agreed to review more carefully, send staff liaison suggestions before next meeting and potentially vote to adopt.

5.b Commission for the Arts Request to Install Artwork in Parks

Susan Barkman led a discussion on placing public art in parks, seeking input from the board about which parks may benefit from art installations. The board generally agreed that Paruch Park and the median on 4th would be the best locations.

5.c Discussion on Donated Toys at City Parks

Director Filipski discussed the recent removal of donated playhouses at Cody Park and clarified that the small sand box toys at various parks would not be removed entirely, but that parks maintenance staff will exercise judgment, and if necessary due to a potential hazard or other concern, may selectively dispose of toys during routine maintenance.

5.d Lockman Park Update

Director Filipski updated the group on efforts to preserve the existing play structure at Lockman Park, noting that the commission was set to vote on keeping it in place and approving an expenditure for additional engineering work to adjust construction/design drawings at the May 20 meeting of the city commission.

5.e Grant Application Subcommittee Report

5.f Discussion Regarding Summer Meeting Schedule

Moved by: Perry Abbey
Seconded by: Hannah Holliday

Motion to cancel July 2024 meeting.

Motion Adopted

5.g Discussion of Draft Collaboration Assessment Form

The group briefly discussed the draft collaboration assessment form that staff can use when presenting collaborations/partnerships to the board.

6. Items Not on the Agenda

Member Abbey noted that the Porta-potties should be moved to the SE corner of the courts and that inaccurate information is still on the SMPA website.

7. Upcoming Events

8. Adjournment

Moved by: Ryan Danescu
Seconded by: Sue Wells

Motion to adjourn the May 2, 2024 meeting.

9. Next Meeting:

The group, having decided to cancel the July 2024 meeting, kept the June 6, 2024 meeting as scheduled.