



Minutes

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

August 1, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

M/M Senior Center

3500 Marais Avenue, Royal Oak, MI 48073

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

Absent: Tony Rennpage

1. Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Melanie Macey

Seconded by: Ryan Danescu

Motion to approve the meeting agenda as published.

Motion Adopted

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Sue Wells

Seconded by: Melanie Macey

Motion to approve the minutes of the board's June 6, 2024 meeting.

Motion Adopted

4. Public Comment

Robert Luxon - spoke in favor of the golf course. Thinks losing the golf course would negatively impact home values.

Christopher Croft - spoke in favor of golf course. Thinks it should be funded and improved.

Janice Wagman - read a letter from Mike Ripinski speaking in favor of the golf course.

Samantha Maurice - spoke in favor of the golf course, noting how busy it is and how well-maintained it is.

Bill Trafford - spoke in favor of the golf courses and noted that the golf course is a former landfill.

Chancer Waelchli - noted that he is new to golf, finds the course enjoyable, and wishes to see it retained.

Don Sutherland - spoke about the tennis courts at Meininger and wishes to see the court resurfaced.

Jordan Zupke - spoke in favor of the development of a skate park. Also supports the golf course.

Joe Spatafore - provided a history of the golf course and expressed the golf course operator's desire to remain the operator.

Tom Merten - spoke in favor of the golf course and wishes to retain it.

Rachel C. - spoke in favor of building a skateboard park.

Pierre Dugas - commented that the city should look long-term about recreational investments, and spoke in favor of the golf course.

Tony Snow - spoke in favor of the golf course.

Rick Vincent - noted that the golf course is a landfill, and indicated support for keeping it. Questioned how it became an issue/question for the board to consider.

Terry Drinkwine - spoke in favor of the golf course and provided a history of the course.

Dan C. - spoke in favor of building a skate park, was appreciative that the old 'skate park' was removed, and supports the golf course.

Doug Skreet - spoke in favor of the golf course and suggested a mileage.

Laura Harrison - doesn't golf but spoke in favor of the golf course, noting how busy it is.

Lexis (last name not provided) - snack bar attendant works at the golf course and spoke in favor of retaining it.

Janice Wagman - noted that funds from the tax income from the NO housing development should be used to fund recreation improvements.

5. City Commission Comments

Commissioner Macey provided a brief update on the pending city manager search.

6. Staff Comments

Director Filipski shared concerns provided to him by email from Mr. Peter Berg relating to pickleball players playing past the posted 9pm closure time at Whittier Park, imploring the staff and board to consider an ordinance amendment to improve enforceability or lock gates daily at 9pm. He also announced that Nikki McEachern - a former board member - has been appointed to the department's Superintendent of Recreation position.

7. Business

7.a Presentation of Proposed Eagle Scout Project at Quikstad Park

Ashton presented on his proposal to install lost and found stations as part of an Eagle Scout project.

Moved by: Ryan Danescu

Seconded by: Hannah Holliday

Motion to approve the proposed Eagle Scout-sponsored lost and found stand project at Quikstad Park.

Motion Adopted

7.b Update on CIP Planning & Engagement Process

Director Filipski reported that this work would be deferred until the newly-appointed Superintendent of Recreation begins. The proposed schedule as previously provided could be adjusted while still meeting budget submission deadlines.

7.c Golf Course Discussion

Chair Kindinger read the staff memo related to this item and facilitated board conversation on the issue.

Member Danescu - noted the potential issues related to the former landfill site, and the costs associated with development into other recreational amenities. Noted that the use as a park would only be costs and not generate revenues.

Commissioner Macey spoke in favor of the course, recognizing the unique value of it. She also recognized the need to iron out outstanding issues.

Perry Abbey noted that the status quo may be the best option.

Member Wells suggested that staff could consider other alternatives to improving the course, and noted that ultimately the long term question of the course will inevitably come back to the board.

Member Danescu noted that the interrelated issues should be addressed separately.

7.d Subcommittee Reports

Commissioner Macey reported on the status of the grant subcommittee.

8. Items Not on the Agenda

Chair Kindinger discussed dog park issues.

9. Upcoming Events

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Moved by: Sue Wells

Seconded by: Melanie Macey

Motion to adjourn the August 1, 2024 meeting.

Motion Adopted

11. Next Meeting:

September 5, 2024.