



Royal Oak

Minutes

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

September 5, 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
Perry Abbey

Absent: Ryan Danescu

1. Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm.

2. Introduction of Nikki McEachern - Superintendent of Recreation

Rec. Superintendent introduced herself to the board and provided a brief background of her experience. She notified the group of the upcoming Hamer-Finch Wilkins statue. She offered board members the opportunity to schedule one-on-one meetings with her. The board alternated taking turns introducing themselves.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by: Melanie Macey
Seconded by: Sue Wells

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2024 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

Motion Adopted

4. City Commission Comments

Commissioner Macey reiterated the unveiling of the Hamer Finch Wilkins statue and provided a brief history of the family.

5. Public Comment

Peter Berg 515 Potter Ave - spoke regarding the Whittier Park pickleball courts, noting that the problem of late play on the court persists and it creates a nuisance. The board discussed the issue, and made several suggestions to remedy the issue.

Pat McGhee spoke regarding a dangerous condition on the rope ladder at Elks Park, noting that he sent an email to the DPS general and was not responded to. He also mentioned the Gatsby Cannabis banner which may have damaged the pavilion at Starr Jaycee.

6. Business

6.a 2024-2025 Meeting Calendar Discussion

The board reviewed a calendar and decided to change the January 2, 2025 meeting to January 8, 2025 and to not meet in July 2025.

Moved by: Hannah Holliday
Seconded by: Perry Abbey

Motion to change the January 2nd 2025 meeting to January 8, 2024 and to not meet in July 2025.

Motion Adopted

6.b Continued Discussion of Park CIP Planning Process

The board and staff discussed the CIP planning process, and how to implement an engagement strategy in advance of the budget submission process. Superintendent McEachern noted she'd study the draft process and facilitate additional discussion at a future meeting.

7. Items Not on the Agenda

Director Filipski responded to inquiries about the claims from the golf course operators that money was not allocated to the course as promised with the sale of the Normandy Oaks golf course, noting that improvements were made to the cart paths and parking lot.

He also reported that the proposed parking at Lawson Park may not be possible because the park was removed from the CDBG eligible areas.

Member Wells discussed a tour she took with the golf course operators and reported positively on the amount of activity there.

Member Abbey echoed Member Wells' sentiments regarding the golf course, and noted that he wanted to see a plan for which tennis/pickleball courts will be target for repair/replacement.

Member Wells noted that there should be a better way to measure actual use at athletic courts.

Member Burgess shared a report from the grants subcommittee which highlighted some priorities for the board and staff to consider.

8. Upcoming Events

9.23.24 2pm - Hamer Finch Wilkins statue unveiling.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:18pm.

Moved by: Brigitta Burgess
Seconded by: Sue Wells

Motion Adopted

10. Next Meeting: October 3, 2024