

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Chr. LaBar at 4:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present – Del Conley, Darrin Darga, Art Getzinger (4:05), Jackie Langlois, Ralph Stedman (4:09), Debbie Stiller, and Michelle LaBar.

Absent – Mike Peltz and Rick Wagner.

Also present: City Mgr. Slown, and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Janet Nowak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Comm. Darga, seconded by Comm. Conley, to approve the minutes as amended to show Darrin Darga as present at the meeting held on December 19, 2007.

Ayes – All, motion was carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chr. LaBar asked for nominations of officers.

Chairperson: A motion was made by Del Conley, seconded by Debbie Stiller, to nominate Michelle LaBar for Chairperson.

Ayes – All, the motion carried to elect Michelle LaBar as Chairperson.

Vice-Chairperson: A motion was made by Debbie Stiller, seconded by Darrin Darga, to nominate Del Conley as Vice-Chairperson.

Ayes – All, the motion carried to elect Del Conley as Vice-Chairperson.

CITIZENS APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE: None

REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

REPORTS:

REPORTS FROM CITY STAFF

City Mgr Slown reported on the following:

◆He received a notice from the DNR: they are soliciting grants for parks and recreation projects, with a deadline of March 1, 2008. One of the requirements is the rule that the entity who is applying for the grant must have a current five year Park & Recreation Plan on record. The City's Park & Recreation Plan will expire in 2009. Slown suggested the Commission think about up-dating the Plan. It was decided that the Commission members will review the Plan for discussion at the next Park & Recreation Commission meeting.

◆Rogers Township and Presque Isle County received a grant to fund the extension of the Huron Sunrise Trail to 40-Mile Point Lighthouse. Construction on the trail extension will start in the fall. Rogers Township will be responsible for maintaining the new extension.

◆The City Council had further questions on the recommendation made by the Park & Recreation Commission to demolish the building at the Little League Fields. Council requested this be looked into further before they will make a decision. Discussion ensued on why the Commission made the recommended demolition. It was decided to invite members from the Little League to the next Park & Recreation meeting for input on what to do with the building.

◆Frank Krist gave a presentation to the Harbor Advisory Committee on Lake Huron fishing and the food web. Slown would like to invite Krist to a Park & Recreation meeting, so he can give the same presentation to this Commission.

MSU EXTENSION – KATHY KARSTEN

Kathy Karsten of the MSU Extension gave a presentation on the MSU Extension and the 4-H Program. She provided a handout on what the MSU Extension does. Karsten was hired last year to develop the 4-H Program in Presque Isle County. Their goals are conservation, healthy lifestyles, and leadership and citizenship. Karsten gave a brief over-view of projects the 4-H Program is involved in. She explained ways that the 4-H Program could work with the Park & Recreation Commission, i.e., plant trees, gardening, and other various projects throughout the parks. Karsten stated the Summer Recreation Program is a good program, but it has been difficult to find a qualified individual as a swimming instructor. She suggested that the swimming program be held in August when it will be easier to find an instructor. City Mgr. Slown offered his suggestion on the swimming program. Discussion ensued on the qualifications required to be a swimming instructor, if funds are available, and ways to advertise for an instructor. A suggestion was made to collaborate between the School, City and County to fund recreation programs to make these programs more feasible. Karsten is working on a plat book, which will include the Huron Sunrise Trail map. Chr. LaBar thanked Karsten for her presentation.

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TOP OF MICHIGAN TRAILS PERSON

City Mgr. Slown and Comm. Ralph Stedman attended the Trail Summit meeting that was put on by MDOT and NEMCOG. Slown explained what was discussed at the meeting and provided literature that was provided at the meeting. Comm. Stedman will be the Top of Michigan Trails representative for this area.

OTHER BUSINESS:

◆Summer Concert Series at Lakeside Park – Comm. Darga reported the City Council suggested that the Park & Recreation Commission consider helping Anne Belanger with the Summer Concert Series at Lakeside Park. Darga further explained at this time there is no formal idea to what direction the Council wants the Park & Recreation Commission to take. Within the next month, there may be a better idea of the direction. A handout was provided to the Commission on the 2005, 2006, and 2007 budget review, and 2008 proposal that were submitted to City Council by Anne Belanger. Darga explained the information that was provided in the handout. City Mgr. Slown explained how this Commission could help i.e., ideas for entertainers, and/or fund-raising to help fund the program. Slown will invite Belanger to the next Park & Recreation meeting to discuss the Summer Concert Series.

◆Comm. Darga stated he has enjoyed serving on the Park & Recreation Commission; this will be his last meeting. He was appointed by Mayor Hall to be the Council Liaison for the CDA. As of February 1st, Council Member Tom Sobeck will be the Council Liaison for the Park & Recreation Commission.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was declared adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Michelle LaBar
Chairperson

Janet M. Nowak
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer