

**VILLAGE OF DEXTER
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
March 19, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Village of Dexter Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:03 pm at the Village offices, 8123 Main Street.

ROLL CALL

Present: Becky Murillo, Toni Henkemeyer, John Coy, Secretary, Brian Brassow, Chair, Colleen Moore, Donna Fisher (Ex Officio)
Absent: Randy Hermann

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – February 19, 2013 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes

Moved, Henkemeyer, support Murillo to approve the minutes as presented.
Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved Moore, support Henkemeyer to approve the minutes as presented.
Motion Carried

PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Paul Cousins, Village Trustee addressed the agenda item, Washtenaw County Parks Trail Identification signage thru Downtown. Mr. Cousins expressed his desire to have the pathway along Broad Street due to Broad Street being the oldest street in town with numerous historical sites, including the Railroad Station, school house and others that should be highlighted. Mr. Cousins informed the PaRC that he walked the proposed trail 2 years ago with staff and a local historical enthusiast and discussed the trail through town and the need for historic marker signs.

The Commission discussed the proposal, including but not limited to:
Central Street is an aesthetically nicer walk – trees and houses; One route would be less signs; crossing at Baker and Main not preferred; Better crossing at Main and Broad; could consider a historic loop at a time when it is ready; a loop at the stairs could go down Alpine; Alpine not preferred route due to cross walk at corner and aroma of WWTP; right turns for traffic heading west onto Central not good for pedestrians; PaRC prefers Central Street northwest side as alignment, not southeast; less pedestrian vehicle interactions; no action on historical route development (sign development, including text, location, budget, approval process); Central Street long range plans ahead of Broad Street, including bike lanes, street lights, pedestrian crossing; Central Street nicer, Broad Street trees, sidewalks, houses not the Village's best foot forward; One route provides less signage; historic tour should be separate – possibly organized by historical society; Crossing at Third and Central pretty good, good visibility

A staff memo was included in the packet that detailed the goals the recommendation was attempting to achieve:

- Reduce the need for pedestrians to cross main streets, guide pedestrians to cross at signaled intersections.
- Avoid having to create 2 different routes.
- Guide users to the ADA accessible route.
- Provide potential benefit of bringing visitors downtown.

Coy Vaughn was not present during the discussion.

Mr. Cousins left following a portion of the discussion.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

- A. Chair
 - a. Dexter Daze Update: Road Closure of Jeffords Street approved, thank you Council. Committee planning for more family oriented activities for Mill Creek Park area. Goal to keep families in town for festival.
- B. Commissioners and Ex Officio
 - a. John Coy – reported that Tree Board met and planning for annual planting project and tree trimming activities.
- C. Community Development Office Report – A report was included in the packet, that included, but was not limited to:
 - a. Mill Creek Park update
 - b. Connecting Communities Grant - \$225,000 awarded – depending on alignment decisions, site plan will be revised, submitted to MDOT and local Boards and Commissions for approval, followed by Fall 2013 construction.
 - c. Ice Rink Closed – need lock on gate, elevate lighting, 40+ days of skating this year; thank you's sent out on Email Update and Facebook Page. Rink considered a success this year.
 - d. Monument Park Bathroom Enclosure - \$750 in donations received to date; plan to have construction completed in time for Memorial Day Parade.
 - e. Passport Grant – Council approved resolution, staff included draft application in packet; PaRC provided comments for inclusion, application due April 1, 2013.
 - f. Thank you note from resident included in packet. Thank you to all involved in development of Mill Creek Park.
 - g. Bike Rack locations – staff gave a brief update on the project and provided photos for potential locations. Staff to refine proposal for next meeting. 8 total racks in FY12-13 budget.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Consideration of: 2013-2018 Parks Capital Improvement Project Worksheets

Moved Brassow, support Moore to recommend that the Planning Commission include the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended project worksheets in the 2013-2018 Capital Improvements Plan.

Motion Carried

- B. Discussion of: FY 2013-2014 Budget Recommendations

Moved Brassow, support Murillo to postpone action until the next meeting.

Motion Carried

- C. Discussion of: 3rd Annual Easter Extravaganza – March 30th

The Commission discussed the final details for the March 30th event. Bishop will not be at event this year, but DPW staff will bring decorations, etc. PaRC members will volunteer and be at site by 8:30 am. Staff will work on getting face painting volunteers and money bag. The PaRC also discussed the Northville night time egg scramble and will consider, however the Commission likes the size and scale of the event as it currently works.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Consideration of: Washtenaw County Parks Trail Identification through Downtown

The Commission continued the discussion started under Citizens wishing to address the Commission. The PaRC recommended an alignment along the northwest side of Central Street and that "blaze" signs be placed on existing utility poles. Reasons for the recommendation are detailed above. Staff was directed to follow up with Coy Vaughn from the County to refine the recommendation and present to Council for approval.

Moved Brassow, support Coy to recommend an alignment for the Border to Border (B2B) through downtown to be along the northwest side of Central Street with "blaze" signs to be on existing utility poles.

Motion Carried

- B. Discussion of: Mill Creek Park – Phase 2 Natural Trail Development Update – John Coy

Commissioner Coy provided an update on the walk that Coy, Henkemeyer and Hermann took the prior weekend. Based on their observation they believe that approximately 4 floating bridges may be necessary to cross existing drainage ditches. One of the bridges may require a railing due to the depth of the ditch. Based on the meeting with the school it is anticipated that they would prefer to keep trail users away from the play grounds due to protocol for strangers near the play grounds. Coy, Henkemeyer and Hermann reported that it is possible to clear the path along the river through the school property due to the spoil pile that was likely placed decades ago along the banks of the Mill Creek. The Commissioners who walked the trail are excited about the opportunity to provide access to the property as a nature trail. Access to this area provides an experience not currently available in the Village. Commissioner Coy will continue to review what would be required to develop a rustic trail along the creek and provide a budget recommendation for the next meeting. It is the PaRC's intent to request funding to develop the rustic nature trail in FY13-14 with minor funding and volunteers.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION - NONE

PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

- A. Park Development Updates – Mill Creek Park Signage
- B. FY 13-14 Budget Recommendation
- C. Segment D1 Site Plan Update
- D. Donation Guidelines and Volunteer Management Plan
- E. Mill Creek Park Natural Trail Development Update

ADJOURNMENT at 9:15

Respectfully Submitted

Allison Bishop, AICP
Community Development Manager
PaRC Staff Liaison

Filing Approved 4-16-13