

**CITY OF DEXTER
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
August 23, 2016**

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

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Becky Murillo, Michael Cavanaugh, Paul Arnold, Joy Gee, Toni Henkemeyer, and Ray Tell

Commissioners Absent: None

Other Present: Justin Breyer, Assistant to the City Manager; Julie Schumaker, Dexter Community Fund; Yuchen Ding and Sara Pizzo, Planning Interns; Nathan Biggs, Boy Scout

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Arnold, Seconded by Henkemeyer to approve the minutes from May 17, 2016.
Motion Adopted

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Murillo, Seconded by Gee to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion Adopted

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

Julie Schumaker, Dexter Community Fund – Ms. Schumaker, Dexter School Board Member, introduced the Dexter Community Fund. She stated that their goal is to raise \$2 million in assets and to give out grants to community organizations. The DCF has raised \$200,000. She requested that the Parks and Recreation Commission consider the Dexter Community Fund's request to donate an item in Mill Creek Park with a plaque. She mentioned that some ideas discussed by the DCM included a tree, a bench, or some other visible item.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

A. CHAIR

Becky Murillo discussed the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative. She commented that the railroad has been seeking access to the Bolin Right-of-Way. They have been in discussion with Washtenaw County Parks, MDOT, and the Road Commission. The Committee discussed the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative's opportunity to partner with the railroad to construct a segment of the path.

B. COMMISSIONERS AND EX-OFFICIO

Tree Board – None

Ex Officio – None

Art Selection – Justin Breyer reported that City Council approved the purchase of the Dragonfly Sculpture and the installation of the Lion’s Sculpture. He commented that the Lion’s Sculpture would be installed in the next few weeks.

C. STAFF REPORT

Justin Breyer submitted his report per the packet. He provided an update on several projects, including:

- The opening of Lion’s Park. The Committee discussed the popularity of this park and future needs.
- Staff met with SmithGroupJJR, King & MacGregor, and the MDEQ regarding the wetland delineation. Justin commented that the City should be receiving MDEQ’s report about the wetland delineation, and SmithGroupJJR’s revised cost proposal. The Committee discussed next steps and how this project relates to the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative project.
- Justin stated that staff is planning a Mill Creek Park Work Day on October 8th.

NEW BUSINESS

A. CONSIDERATION OF: FIRST STREET PARK PLAN

Sara Pizzo and Yuchen Ding introduced themselves as interns working on the First Street Park Planning project. Sara and Yuchen provided the Parks and Recreation Commission with the feedback that they had received through interviews of community stakeholders – Dexter Ringers, Sheriff’s Department, Paul Evanoff of SmithGroupJJR, and Coy Vaughn. The Committee and the Interns talked about a timetable for the project and the scope of work. The Interns talked about hosting an event to gather feedback from the community. The Committee discussed hosting the event during Apple Daze.

B. CONSIDERATION OF: DEXTER COMMUNITY FUND DONATION

The Committee discussed the proposal from the Dexter Community Fund. The Committee agreed that their consideration of the donation should be put on hold until the Donation Acceptance Policy was complete. The Committee discussed handicap accessibility and the desire for an additional swing bay to hold a wheelchair swing.

C. DISCUSSION OF: DONATION AND VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES

The Committee reviewed the draft Donation Acceptance and Volunteer Policy. The Committee provided feedback to staff, and requested that a clean copy (without track changes) be sent out prior to next meeting for further review.

D. DISCUSSION OF: USE OF DONATED FUNDS FOR LIONS PARK

The Committee discussed options for using potential donated funds from Lowe’s and the AAABOR Realtors 2016 Placemaking Grant. The Committee provided feedback to use the funds from the Placemaking Grant towards an ADA accessible pathway from the parking lot to the playground, and for trees. They also discussed using the Lowe’s grant for benches.

E. DISCUSSION OF: PARK SIGNAGE, HOURS OF OPERATION, AND ORDINANCES

The Committee discussed park hours of operation and signage. The Committee discussed having consistent signage throughout the parks, but needed more information on different sign types. The Committee directed staff to provide quotes for the stone-based kiosk sign in Mill

Creek Park and a sign similar to the one found in Community Park. The Committee also requested that staff receive quotes for: an additional swing bay, a wheelchair swing, and all work related to installation.

F. DISCUSSION OF: MILL CREEK PARK WORK DAY

Staff reinforced the need for volunteers to assist with the Mill Creek Park Work Day on October 8th.

OLD BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION OF: PARK MAINTENANCE REQUESTS

The Commission discussed park maintenance needs, including:

- Someone had put up another tire swing in Community Park.
- The Committee discussed people jumping off of the train trestle into the Creek.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

None

PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee discussed their priority for addressing policies:

- 1) Donation Policy
- 2) Volunteer Policy
- 3) Ordinance Review

ADJOURNMENT

Becky Murillo called the meeting adjourned at 9:21pm.

Justin Breyer
Assistant to the City Manager