



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
June 14, 2021
6:00 p.m.



Via Remote Participation

Commissioners Present: Scott LaBombard, Douglas Morash, Vincent Olinski, Michael Tirrell and Sara Unger

Commission absent: Jane Debarbieri, Robert Veronesi and Kenneth Magarian

Staff Present: Scott Hathaway, Deputy Supt.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. via remote participation with Michael Tirrell, Chairperson presiding asking commissioners for a voice roll call by calling out a "Yes".

Sara Unger yes, Vincent Olinski yes, Michael Tirrell yes, Douglas Morash yes and Scott LaBombard yes.

Michael Tirrell asked if anyone had any questions regarding the zoom May 10 meeting minutes and the flag meeting minutes on May 24, 2021. He called out each commissioner for a roll call vote. Motion made by Scott LaBombard to accept the minutes of May 10 and May 24, 2021 meetings, motion seconded by Douglas Morash. Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger yes, Vincent Olinski yes, Michael Tirrell yes, Douglas Morash yes, Scott LaBombard yes. Motion passed.

Public Participation via zoom: (Max 15 minutes 2 min. per person) Jeff Burke, Joshua Balestracci, Doug Cotton and Kelly Pelkey.

Business or Items for Discussion:

1. Michael Tirrell welcomed Jeff Burke regarding Ad Hoc committee for the Skateboard park and asked if he spoke with Scott Hathaway regarding adding members and if the skate park area is actually under the dept. and if the existing skate park can be the spot for the new one and if there was anything that could stop us from rebuilding a more modern and safer skate park at the existing area. Michael Tirrell asked if possibly a plaque could be added to note the land and money donated in honor of Amelia and Albert Ferst. He asked Scott Hathaway to reach out the family of the plans to make a safer modern skate park.
2. Jeff Burke responded that we should start working with city officials and get a plan in place if this is going to be in the current location. Questions were brought up on how much would the city be willing to fund and also look into grants. Discussion was made regarding other cities/towns on funding from last meeting.

3. Michael Tirrell asked Scott Hathaway to get the dimensions of the current skate park area when he had a chance.
4. Jeff Burke said there would be a design fee to get it going and asked where the funding would come from. He said it will be about \$ 10,000.
5. Scott Hathaway said that Peter Miller, Community Development would be the person to get grants and funding for the project. Michael Tirrell said that he would reach out to him to get the conversation going.
6. Michael Tirrell brought up permit request for Park Square or Half Mile Falls Park for a free concert for Elizabeth and Madison Curbelo. (They did not attend so the permit is not approved and asked that they attend the July meeting)
7. Michael Tirrell brought up the renewal of contract signing authority for "ALL" Francis Cain for FY22. He said this comes up every year and asked commissioners to stop in the office to sign and date it. He asked for a motion and roll call.

Motion made by Vincent Olinski to approve Contract Authority form for "ALL" for Francis Cain as presented motion seconded by Douglas Morash, Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger yes, Vincent Olinski yes, Michael Tirrell yes, Douglas Morash yes, Scott LaBombard yes.
Motion passed.

8. Michael Tirrell went over request from Pastor Gene or Kelly Pelkey -New Life Worship Center- Permit request at Chapman basketball courts for a basketball tournament August 7 times 10:00 a.m.-3:00p.m. with a rain date of Aug. 14 and asked them to go over the details of the event.
9. Kelley Pelkey responded that they just wanted to have a fun outside basketball tournament with about five teams and will offer refreshments with about 50 people attending. Michael Tirrell asked if anyone had any questions and if we want to set motion.
10. Scott Hathaway said he just wanted to make sure the area is picked up of trash and cleaned after the event.

Michael Tirrell asked each commissioner for a roll call vote. Motion made by Vincent Olinski to approve permit as presented, motion seconded by Douglas Morash, Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger yes, Vincent Olinski yes, Michael Tirrell yes, Douglas Morash yes, Scott LaBombard yes.
Motion passed.

11. Michael Tirrell welcomed Doug Cotton -Whip City Music request Park Square Sat. July 10 times Noon to 6:00 p.m. for five bands for a free concert.

12. Doug Cotton went over the people who will be in the five bands are from Whip City Music he said about four to five bands and the people playing in the bands are from Whip City, students, and that Jay Pagluca will be the sound person. They will not have alcohol or food. Michael Tirrell asked if anyone had any questions.
13. Scott Hathaway mentioned that we have to check the power to make sure it does not go off. Doug Cotton said he would use the other outlets and have small speakers but to make sure we check them befo4er event.

Michael Tirrell asked each commissioner for a roll call vote. Motion made by Douglas Morash to approve permit as presented, motion seconded by Vincent Olinski, Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger yes, yes, Vincent Olinski yes, Michael Tirrell yes, Douglas Morash yes, Scott LaBombard yes.

Motion passed.

14. Michael Tirrell welcomed Joshua Balestracci permit request for Municipal basketball courts June 21 – August 9 times 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. and asked him to go over it.
15. Joshua Balestracci said it is to keep the players from St. Mary's, Southwick and Westfield Technical Academy schools practicing their basketball skills during summer months.
16. Scott Labombard asked how many basketball courts he would be using. Joshua Balestracci responded one court only.

Michael Tirrell asked each commissioner for a roll call vote. Motion made by Scott LaBombard to approve permit as presented, motion seconded by Sara Unger, Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger yes, Vincent Olinski yes, Michael Tirrell yes, Douglas Morash yes, Scott LaBombard yes. Motion passed.

17. Michael Tirrell brought up the tree art sub-committee members who revisited the area near the 9/11 monument. He said he reached out to Chery Crowe and that Madeline Calabrese was on vacation and would do a follow up with them on the area they chose near Gateway Park that is off Union Street and he showed a map view via zoom of the new area for the tree art so that it is not near the 9/11 monument. He said he will reach out to Mr. Grinspoon and Madeline Calabrese to see if the new area will be suitable for the tree art location and bring it back at another meeting for a vote.
18. Douglas Morash said the new area is not near the 9/11 monument and he feels it is a good fit for the tree art location. He hopes that Mr. Grinspoon will agree that it is a good compromise.

Schedule of bills-Michael Tirrell asked if everyone had a chance to go over them. (Emailed)

Reports-Emailed- Scott Hathaway went over Park Square Fountain is up and running. Whitney Playground has an old boat ramp and he is working with Engineering on restoring the boat ramp and planting trees in the fall and adding a picnic table to enhance the area. He said he stopped down at Whitney and someone had a boat tied to the ramp and asked them to remove

it that it was not to be used as a personal storage ramp. He said vandalism has declined at Whitney Playground. He brought up a concern of a Starfires sign that was placed at the 9/11 Monument and they did not get permission from the commission for signage so he removed it. The sign could have damaged the grass area and it is not suitable for a sign at the 9/11 Monument. Commissioners agreed.

19. Sara Unger said that no signs are supposed to go up without permission or approval.
20. Michael Tirrell agreed with all the sign ordinances in the city. The light poles are not part of the commissions responsibility and banners are up on the light poles for Starfires. He will reach out to the Starfires representatives and let them know and possibly have them attend next month on the updates at Bullen's Field. Scott LaBombard said there was a new fence, tables and sign.
21. Sara Unger responded that Starfires should attend every year like Little League does with any new updates.
22. Michael Tirrell went over Jim Blascak's report- (attached) Spray parks are all up and running, Adventure Zone starts June 21 - Aug. 13 and at Parker Memorial Park Mary Ann Star donated a flag in memory of her parents. Sara Unger said they donate a flag very year.

Michael Tirrell asked each commissioner for a roll call vote to adjourn. Motion made by Scott LaBombard, motion seconded by Douglas Morash, Roll call vote as follows: Sara Unger yes, yes, Vincent Olinski yes, Michael Tirrell yes, Douglas Morash yes, Scott LaBombard yes. Motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2021 back at city hall per email to commissioners.

Documents used:

Schedule of bills-Emailed
Staff Reports-Emailed
Map of tree art area

Reviewed by Douglas Morash, Secretary of Commission

Typed organized by zoom video: Peggy Goralczyk, Head Clerk