

Saint Louis Parks & Recreation Commission

Regular Meeting

March 13, 2017

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Kevin Palmer at 4:17 p.m. on Monday, March 13, 2017.

Roll Call

Members Present: Kevin Palmer, Amanda Kelly, Melissa Allen, Steve Larsen, Mary Reed

Members Absent: Dorothy Trgina (excused), Sally Church

Others Present: Kurt Giles, City Manager, Mark Abbott, Department of Public Works, Keith Risdon, Public Services Director, Roger Collison, resident, Kathy Larsen, resident

A motion to approve the **minutes of the January 9, 2017 meeting** was made by Melissa Allen, seconded by Amanda Kelly. Motion carried.

There were **no changes to the agenda** of items as presented.

A motion to place on file the **minutes of the January 8, 2017 meeting** was made by Melissa Allen, seconded by Steve Larsen. Motion carried.

Business

Lincoln Park Grant Update – Kurt Giles stated that the City should hear by March 23, the outcome of the grant application (a copy was given to each member) for playground equipment for Lincoln Park. Phil Hansen wrote the grant, and Kurt stated that the prospect of receiving the grant seem favorable. The Parks Commission appreciates Phil's work in submitting the grant application. Kurt told the commission that a \$300 donation to the playground project was given to the City by Caroline Ross and a letter of thanks has been written to her.

Keith Risdon presented to all, an aerial map and general sketch site map of possible new playground equipment, enlarged basketball court, additional parking and a pavilion for Lincoln Park. His measurements indicate that possibly six trees will need to be felled for the best arrangement of new items to the park, but new, quality trees might be planted. Mark Abbott's staff could do the tree and stump removal. (Note: the parking lot, pavilion, enlarged basketball court, and walkways connecting each area are in the discussion phase only at this point.) The existing play equipment – a "fire truck" and

swing set, will need to be refreshed with paint. Roger Collison suggested making a simple change to the existing infant swings to make them safer, and all agreed.

Amanda Kelly, Roger Collison and Mary Reed attended a seminar in January on recreation grant programs through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Amanda gave each member a copy of the Power Point presentation from the seminar, and Mary gave all a summary, highlighting the cogent aspects of the presentation. No matter if we decide to write a grant for additional items (see Note, above) to Lincoln Park, the first order of business is updating our 5-Year Plan and uploading it to the State of Michigan's web site, a new requirement since the last plan was written. The commission decided that each member will read the current plan before the April meeting and come prepared to move forward in writing a new plan. There was discussion as to whether the commission can simply update the old plan or if help – possibly from the Spicer group – would be needed. We hope to save money by having the commission do the updating.

Garden Club Update – Mary Reed announced that six additional planters have been ordered from Twin City, for placement on Mill Street. This will make a total of twelve planters in the downtown area, with about six of them already “purchased” by donors. All twenty-six planters that will be placed on Washington/M-46, have been purchased. Flowers for the planters, as well as those for the beds along Main Street, have been ordered through Twin City. Planting will be done on May 20th. Applications are available for the new planters from Mary or the City. The cost is \$300 and includes a plaque on the planter with wording of the donor's choice.

Pool Update – Kurt presented all with a letter from Lizette Shirely, the Alma College student who oversaw the City Pool activities last summer. Lizette had included a proposed schedule for this summer, which include swim lessons for different ages, adult water aerobics classes, and open swim times. She is working on securing life guards. The commission was pleased with Lizette's work last summer and look forward to her implementation of her plans for this summer, which may increase the pool's use.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission is Monday, April 10, at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Reed
Acting Secretary for Dorothy Trgina