

Fraser Parks & Recreation Commission
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
September 3rd, 2019
Fraser Municipal Building

A regular meeting of the Fraser Parks and Recreation Commission was conducted on the above date at the Fraser Municipal Building, located at 33000 Garfield Road, Fraser, and County of Macomb, Michigan.

Present: Chairperson Laura Lesich, Vice Chairperson Cheryl LaCasse; Secretary Renee Paoletti, Commissioners Sherry Stein, Nancy Berube, David Bogdan, and Melissa Mills

Also Present: Christina Woods, Recreation Director, DPW Superintendent Nick Schaefer

Absent: none

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairperson Laura Lesich called meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda for June 4 2019

Director Woods requested the Parks discussion get moved from agenda item 11 to 7. Commissioner Lesich motioned, Commissioner Berube seconded. Agenda amendment approved. Commissioner Stein moved to approve agenda, seconded by Commissioner LaCasse. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes from August 6 2019

Commissioner LaCasse moved to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Mills. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Fraser Parks and Recreation Gratitudes

Director Woods thanked the following: resident Rachel Agusti for acquiring a grant for a telescope for the Family STEM night, the Warren Astronomical Society who brought some volunteers, and the families who participated. Thanks Fraser First Booster Club for providing the s'mores. Thank you to the Farmers Market volunteers, the last one is coming up. Thanks to the summer staff for this year.

6. Volunteer Group Reports

A. Updates on McKinley Barrier Free Park

September 19 from 5-8, Charleys Philly Steak at Macomb Mall is helping us with a fundraiser. From 5-8, 15% of their sales will be donated to Fraser First. There will be a Monster Mash Walk and Roll event at McKinley Park on October 19th from 1-3:30. We will have a craft, a train, hot dogs, cider, donuts. This is a free event. Dressing up is optional. We are waiting from information on grants in September. We are getting benches for the toddler area/sand area. There are three benches that have been ordered, and hopefully will go in before the season is over. We are looking at aspects for the sensory garden, and seeing what grants we might get and what else is involved with the garden. We are looking to have that put in the spring. Also, the paver bricks have been installed and look great, so if you have ordered one, check it out. We will be installing

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more, when we get 15 or more. We are continuing to take orders. \$100 each. Our next meeting is September 17th at 6:00 and the Hanover community center.

B. Updates on Fraser Fresh Farmers Market

This month is the last one for the year. Commissioner Berube would like to thank all the volunteers who came out for the year. They did a great job. We will have the Boy Scouts for this month. We are looking for 2 litre Coke bottles. Don't forget to turn in your scarecrow passports.

C. Updates on #FixtheFort Group

We had another Put Your Print on the Park event that was very successful. We will be having another event, a birthday party for Fort Fraser on September 14th, to tie in with the last Farmers market, from 12-2. There will hopefully be some kind of ribbon cutting from the new musical piece that should be installed. There is a coloring contest with prizes and Birthday Cake. Should be fun! The parking lot is being worked on, but shouldn't interfere with the party. It will be set up similarly to McKinley, with a sidewalk. There are new bathroom doors ordered, and getting quotes on shingles.

7. Report on Parks

- A.** First up is to view the presentation made to council. Reviewed existing grants and discussed what needs to be improved. Play equipment needs to be improved at four parks, Somerset, Harrington Trails, Pompo and Boris. The tennis courts need to be redone, and add pickleball lines. That would give us the only lit pickleball court in Macomb County. We are looking at timed locks for the bathrooms. We are looking at getting some new picnic tables, more modern, self cleaning, low maintenance. We are looking at new garbage cans. We are looking at consistent signs and landscaping around them. We need to take down the old ice rink shed. We need to fix the Volleyball courts at Steffens, Somerset, and Pompo, but that would be done in-house. There are future needs that are not going to be part of the first round of improvements. We are talking about fencing and walkways. They need improvement, but will have to wait. We are looking to redesign Steffens Park, to give it a better flow, and have better accessibility. City Council would like the Parks Commission to present something that you feel addresses the most urgent needs for our parks. How does payroll figure into the budget? We are being given an amount, but is that just for equipment? This needs to be clarified. Broken equipment needs to be replaced. That is a priority. What we have is not inviting. Kids want to climb, zip lines. Most of our parks don't have what is needed for the neighborhoods. Steffens Park could use more than one sign. We need to see different options for signs. The bathrooms at Steffens need some TLC, besides the new doors. A lot has been done already. New mirrors, new sinks, new garbage cans. The picnic tables we currently have are very high maintenance. Currently, they are brought in every year, damaged boards replaced and painted, bolts replaced. All

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this is not free. New picnic tables are maintenance free. Maybe we could keep some of the old ones, and replace some of the worst ones. We need a changing table in the bathroom at Steffens Park. The Concession restroom needs some work as well. IT is agreed that the playscapes need to be removed and replaced at Somerset, Boris, Pompo and Harrington Trails Park. We'd like to see all four done for under \$200K, and basing the size based on the size of each park. So, we agree that that picnic tables need to be a priority as well, pending maintenance cost issues. We want the bathroom locks. We want the signs done. We want the tennis courts done. Motion to move forward to bring our recommendation to Nick for pricing and then to council. Motion made by Commissioner Stein, seconded by Commissioner LaCasse. Motion passes with one opposition by Commissioner Berube.

- B. MParks Virtual 5K project ideas. We can table this until we see how much we get from it.

8. Overview Report from Parks and Recreation Director.

We are working on programs for winter, spring and summer due to the director's upcoming maternity leave in December. Also, we are working on getting a federal grant for a new Smart bus, fingers crossed. We were denied last year, so we are going to try again this year.

9. Report on Senior Business

Senior programs are going really well. We started night pickleball, and got a great response. We are also doing night Canasta. Our Smart Grant goes before council to pay about half the cost of the bus program. We still don't have an answer on the Senior Coordinator.

10. Report on Recreation Business

Summer programs are over. Big Bounce America will be coming again next year, for three weekends! It will be the last three weekends in June.

11. Report on Special Events

A. Discussion on Fall Festival 2019

Its moving right along, The Goodfellows will be holding a chili cookoff. HOSA will be doing CPR classes, FFBC will be there, Farmers Market will be there. There will be a petting zoo, tent, bounce house. It will be October 5th.

B. Discussion on Christmas in Fraser

Next month we should come with ideas for who the honorees should be so we can start the process.

12. Other Business

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- A. **Discussion on three Commission seats terms ending 12-31-19**
Commissioners Lesich, Stein and Paoletti. We could take applications until the next meeting, November 12, interview at that meeting, and get council approval at the next meeting. Motion made to start the application process made by Commissioner Stein, seconded by Commissioner Berube, motion passes.

13. Citizen Participation.
None

14. Commission members with concerns

Commissioner Bogdan, has none. Commissioner Mills has none. Commissioner Berube wanted clarify her opposition to the priority list was due to her concern about the bathrooms and the playscapes and the rest was lower priority for her. Commissioner Stein has nothing. Commissioner Paoletti reminded people about the Fort Fraser birthday party. Commissioner LaCasse expressed her appreciation of STEM night, that it was one of the best things she has been involved in. Commissioner Lesich suggested we come up with projects for the Park Clean Up that is coming up. Commissioner Lesich will not be re-upping her commission seat and offered up a challenge to residents to apply.

15. Adjournment

Commissioner LaCasse moved, seconded by Commissioner Stein to adjourn the Recreation Commission Meeting of September 3rd at 9:13 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura Lesich
Chairperson,
Parks & Recreation Commission



Cheryl LaCasse
Vice Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission



Renee Paoletti
Secretary
Parks & Recreation Commission



Christina Woods
Director Parks & Recreation