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City of Fraser

CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY

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Fraser Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
City Council Chambers
33000 Garfield, Fraser, MI 48026
Tuesday, March 11, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.
APPROVED

1. Call Meeting to Order

The regular meeting of the City of Fraser Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Hunt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

PRESENT: Koch, Rice, Walker, Hunter, Hunt, Rastelli

ABSENT: Pieprzyk

OTHERS: Recreation Coordinator Delmege

Motion by Walker supported by Koch to excuse Commission Member Pieprzyk from the March 11, 2025 Recreation Commission meeting.

AYES: Walker, Koch, Hunt, Rice, Hunter, Rastelli

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

4. Approval of Agenda for March 11, 2025

Motion by Rice supported by Koch to approve the agenda of the March 11, 2025 City of Fraser Recreation Commission as presented.

AYES: Koch, Rice, Walker, Hunt, Hunter, Rastelli

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

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5. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting February 4, 2025

Motion by Walker supported by Rice to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2025 meeting of the City of Fraser Recreation Commission as presented.

AYES: Koch, Rice, Walker, Hunt, Hunter, Rastelli

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

6. Fraser Sidewalk Gap Questions & Answers

Ashley Jankowski, McKenna, spoke to the Recreation Commission about their work with AEW and working with the City of Fraser to engage the community about sidewalk planning. In 2024, Fraser was rewarded funding from SEMCOG and is using it to access and address their sidewalk gaps. McKenna and AEW have been listening to the community and getting feedback from the community in terms of how they use the sidewalks, where's the biggest gaps are and where they should use the funding. They ran three community engagements. One was an interactive project website with a public comment map, a digital sidewalk survey and hosted an open house. Some key findings include that the community mainly uses the sidewalks for recreation and relaxation purposes. The City of Fraser sidewalk gaps are affecting elderly, less assessable people and parents with strollers.

Commission Member Koch questioned about how the grant money would be spent. Ms. Jankowski responded it would be for new sidewalks rather than maintenance for current issues. Koch said Hayes Road is something she witnesses people walking in the street because of missing sidewalks.

Recreation Coordinator Delmege said that DPW and Public Safety have noticed a lot of people walking in the street while they're either trying to plow or patrolling the streets. Delmege also pointed out that the schools and parks are missing significant sidewalks. He also mentioned that the biggest park in Fraser, Steffens, is even missing sidewalks.

The next steps are to get more feedback from the schools, seniors and business owners in March and April. In May, the next step is developing a priority list of areas.

7. Volunteer Group Reports

Vania Apps, Fraser First Booster Club, spoke about their next meeting at Hanover Grove Community Building on March 19 at 6:30pm. On March 12, materials will be cut for "Weave Peace" Weave Peace is a structure that will be constructed at Steffens Park that will have community engagement that people can put their peaceful intentions on it. It's a fun, art piece that will bring attention to the area where they're hoping for a community space inside Steffens. They're hoping for April 5/6 to construct it and throughout the week to weave it. She spoke to DPW and Recreation in regard to placement and got approval of location. April 3 there will be a fundraiser at Ram's Horn with baked good from 5:00-8:00pm.

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The Fraser Beautification Club next meeting will be Wednesday, March 26 at 6:30pm at Ram's Horn. Shamrocks have been put up to the City of Fraser sign. Flowers have been moved from the bank to the Baumgartner House to repurpose them.

8. Administration Report

Recreation Coordinator Delmege talked about how Allie Darroch, the Senior Activity Center Clerk has been working hard on multiple different events. In February, there was a Valentine Luncheon that was a sellout of 50 people at \$5 a person. Both American House and Schott's Market supplied food and Fraser supplied the beverages. There was also a MGM Casino bus trip that was a sellout of 13 people. Attendance is growing, the number of events is growing, and people are excited. From 9:00-10:30am, Allie kept track of the number of people that came in at over 100 people. Upcoming luncheon for St. Patrick's and Easter. There's also a newsletter that comes out monthly that began in February. Delmege and Darroch also updated the bus policy and increased the times and days that the buses run. There's a Detroit Princess Cruise slated for May 15.

Commissioner Koch wanted to know if we could extend the 50-person limit for events. Delmege explained that there needs to be enough room and seating for Meals On Wheels. He explained that the banquet room is equipped with a sink and meal prep station and cannot be moved.

Commission Member Rice questioned if the newsletter is for only the seniors to which Delmege said yes. He asked if the city would consider a newsletter for their residents which Delmege stated they're already looking into.

Delmege spoke about the Marshmallow Drop happening on April 12 with two different drops but asked the Commission about doing a third drop for adults. The concern about making an adult drop would be the children not being watched. The Marshmallow Drop will have gift bags, golden eggs winners, petting zoo and horse rides and face painting. Commission felt it was worth trying. Registration will be through the city's website and residents will have a week to register first.

The Skyhawks sports program is coming back for a second year. It will begin in April and end in May. Spring was the most popular season for their program. Multiple sports including basketball, football and soccer are just some of the programs. Classes are \$79. Looking forward to summer programs and potentially a grant for cheaper/free classes for a future class.

There will an event on Saturday, March 15 called "Paint & Plant" that'd almost sold out. Two timeslots of 20 people each. Participants will paint flowerpots and get soil and seeds. Free event inside the fire bay.

Commission Member Hunt asked about the Coloring Trailer event which Delmege stated he's still waiting for the date he's allowed to call and book it. It's a 26' trailer that people can color the inside and outside of the trailer.

9. Citizen Participation

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Laura Lesich had several questions for Coordinator Delmege regarding summer programs, Skyhawks, Family Fun Night, Park Clean Up and Sidewalk Gaps. Coordinator Delmege said that Skyhawks do classes/camps during each season. Summer camps were poorly attended. He's not sure if it has to do with vacations, school programs already established or what the determining factor involved is. Family Fun Night was a success of roughly 95 participants. Potential for a different theme rerun event. Delmege thanked Vintage House for such a great organized event with great food and it looked amazing. There was a raffle of Meijer gift cards and a DJ who played music until the end. Commission Member Koch stated that most people who attended were Fraser residents. Delmege contacted the entire waitlist to get everyone on the roster. There was a balloon arch for photo opportunities. Delmege is going to try to partner up with DPW and the schools for a bigger Park Clean up.

Vania Apps informed the Commission that Hanover Grove has been a great asset to the City and Fraser First Booster Club and could be a potential place to use, but also to thank and shout them out.

10. Commission Members Report

Commission Member Rice asked about grants. Who do we talk to about looking into grants. He has investigated a grant that would bring a skate park into one of the parks. Delmege stated he could look up and into the organization but said we would ultimately bring it up to the City Manager next. Rice stated that he thought it would be a cool addition to Steffens. Delmege said that the organization will probably ask for certain things from the city initially such as how much the project is, how much we have allocated for it and what local organizations are supporting us.

Commission Member Walker asked where they were at with the vendor show. Delmege stated he reached out to previous vendors and proposed different questions and says that they could attend. Delmege spoke about how tough it is to get vendors sometimes due to how many markets there are around the city and do it on weekends. Commission Member Walker asked about us posting more pictures from the events which Delmege said is tough because there's laws about posting pictures of children and not having a waiver.

Commission Member Koch talked about Earth Day coming up. Maybe we could post some pictures of cleaning up for Earth Day and even around their houses and they can post the pictures of them cleaning up the Earth. Delmege said he would like to partner up with DPW, school and Boy & Girl Scouts for a single, bigger event. Koch asked Delmege where we're at with our baseball fields and repairing and getting them good to use. Delmege stated that there's a budget meeting in April and our DPW will present before the council to fix our fields. Koch would like Delmege to start communication between organizations, businesses and schools about all their events so we cannot have events be on the same day.

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11. Adjournment

Motion by Koch supported by Hunter to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm.

AYES: Koch, Rice, Walker, Hunt, Hunter, Rastelli
NAYS: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted:

Chris Delmege
Recreation Coordinator
City of Fraser