

**Approved Minutes
Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, March 20, 2007
7:00 p.m., City Hall**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Collison.
- II. **ATTENDANCE AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**
 - A. Members Present: Carlson, Collison, Cooper, Daniels, Frost, & Seaman
 - B. Members Absent: Baumgardner
 - C. Staff Present: Baderschneider, Bundy & Way
 - D. Guests Present: Mr. Stan Rathbun, Mt. Pleasant Area Comm. Foundation and Matt Copping, CMU Media Student
 - E. Public Attendance: 8
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES.**
 - A. There were no changes made to the agenda.
 - B. Motion by Comm. Seaman, second by Comm. Cooper to approve the minutes of Tuesday, February 27, 2007. **Motion Carried.**
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.
- V. **PUBLIC HEARING**
 - A. **Access Recreation Grant:** A public hearing was held to receive comments on the Mt. Pleasant Community Foundation and Mt. Pleasant Parks & Recreation Departments proposed application to the Access Recreation Initiative for grant funds. Funds will be used for the construction of a barrier free trail with the potential to include a bridge across the Chippewa River with additional amenities designed to provide universal access to all citizens and connecting to the existing Mt. Pleasant River Walk Pathway through Mt. Pleasant City Parks. Funds will also be used to provide ongoing support through community endowment. Mr. Bundy and Mr. Rathbun gave a power point presentation. After the presentation the public hearing was opened by Chair Collison at 7:18 p.m. to receive public input.

All interested persons may attend and participate. Persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate may call the Human Resources Office at 989-779-5313. Persons requiring speech or hearing assistance may contact the City through the Michigan Relay Center at 1-800-649-3777. A 48-hour advance notice is necessary for accommodation.

Ms. Martha Logsdon of 2495 E. Broomfield Road voiced concern about parks getting "paved over". She is in favor of access to those with disabilities; however, there are other parks available with access. She questioned putting \$200,000 of the city's money into a park that is closed in the winter months, and whether proposed bridge would be high enough for canoes to get under. City needs winter activities for children and a community pool.

No other public comments were received. Chair Collison closed the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

- B. **Michigan DNR Trust Fund Grant:** A public hearing was held to receive comments on the City's proposed application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for grant funds. Funds will be used to improve the infrastructure at Island Park and provide universal access to park venues for the use and inclusion of all citizens. Mr. Bundy gave a power point presentation to the group and a short video produced by Matt Coppage, CMU Media student was shown. A question and answer session followed. The floor was then opened to the public for comment. There were no public comments received.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- A. **Parks:** Spring is here and citizens are getting anxious for amenities to be available. Island Park facilities officially open April 15th. Mr. Baderschneider unveiled the first interpretive sign (Vietnam Veterans Memorial) to be used in the park. There are plans for maps and interpretive nature signs for several areas in the parks.
- B. **Recreation:** Mr. Bundy reported on the spring program guide, highlighting the Earth Day Celebration on April 21st and The Great Egg Scramble on March 31st. City is hosting a virtual job fair on its website for the seasonal hiring process.

VII. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Capital Improvement Plan:** Mr. Baderschneider explained that the summary sheet includes all Community Service (Parks & Rec, Planning & Downtown Development). This is a realistic look at a plan between budget and master planning. Comm. Daniels asked why there was not sheet included for community pool. Senior management team needs to make some decisions before this detail sheet is completed. Comm. Seaman questioned long term plans for Mission Creek. Capital

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improvement plan calls for paving of road and parking lot and a new restroom facility.

- B. **Recommendation on Access Recreation Grant & MDNR Trust Fund Grant:** A motion was made by Comm. Frost, second by Comm. Daniels to recommend the City Commission move forward with a resolution in support of both the Access Recreation Grant proposal and the MDNR Land Trust Grant proposal. **Motion Carried.**

VIII. **OTHER BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Comm. Frost asked if the endowment funds for the Access Recreation grant were available only to this specific project. Mr. Bundy stated that the MPACF would be the fiduciary for the Access Recreation grant and the endowment funds. An oversight board, made up of recreation professionals and individuals with disabilities would make the decisions on how funds were spent. It is our hope that this group would make the trail project a high priority for future endowment money.

There will be public convening on the Access Recreation Grant at the library on Thursday, March 22, 2007. Items to be discussed are how to make the trail accessible and how the board, which makes decisions regarding the endowment, should be comprised. Several group homes, schools and special education organizations have been invited.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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