

**Approved Minutes**  
**Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Commission**  
**Tuesday, February 24, 2009**  
**7:00 p.m., City Hall**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order at 7:00 by R. Roberts.
- II. **ATTENDANCE AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**
  - A. Members Present: Daniels, Moreno, C. Roberts, R. Roberts, & Seaman
  - B. Members Absent: Carlson, Frost
  - C. Staff Present: Bundy, Moody, Van Hevel & Weaver
  - D. Guests Present: Duane Ellis, Public Works Director  
Malcolm Fox, Water Department Supervisor
  - E. Public Attendance: three CMU RPL students
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES.**
  - A. The order of agenda items under Old and New Business A. Annual Report and B. Chipp-a-Waters Cell Tower Proposal was switched.
  - B. Motion by Comm. Daniels second by Comm. C. Roberts, to approve the minutes of Tuesday, January 27, 2009. **Motion Carried.**
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – There were no public comments.
- V. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**
  - A. Parks
    - 'Tis the season; parks staff have been working on snow removal.
    - The seasonal hiring process has begun.
    - Parks Coordinators have been making updates for the seasonal staff orientation.
    - Equipment repair for "Old Blue" is being addressed to lengthen vehicle life expectancy.
    - Park Project Plan includes replacing the roof on the small gazebo in Island Park. The structure was built in 1972-73. The current roof is fiberglass; looking to replace roof. Building & Code Enforcement will be included in the process.

**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.**

- Preparation for park openings April 1.
- Matt and Chris attended the Great Lakes Park Training Institute

Matt attended sessions on Green Initiatives and Maintenance.

Chris attended a Spay Park session; he indicated that 75% of Spray Parks are using potable - city water, vs. a recycled system, which functions like a pool. A cost analysis will be conducted for each of the identified locations. Utilities will be located and the cost of running utilities to the site will be figured. The City Commission received the letter from the Parks & Recreation Commission and will wait to make further decisions until the cost analysis is completed.

A temporary position for the summer construction season is being pursued.

Preparing summer project bid specs.

B. Recreation – Mr. Van Hevel reported on the following:

- Youth Activities & Special Events
  - Participated in the CMU summer job fair.
  - Nate and Eric attended the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association Annual Conference. Greg was honored with the CMU distinguished alumni award celebrating his life and highlighting his career.
  - The state Junior Olympic Softball Tournament will not be held in Mt. Pleasant this year due to a scheduling conflict with Summer Festival. The tournament will be held in Novi. The department will host a tournament Memorial Day weekend.
  - A trainer from Vermont Systems will be coming the first week in March. The training and software will enable us to offer online registration and accept credit cards for payment.
  - Youth Basketball is being held at Morey Courts. This facility offers increased spectator seating. There are 322 participants in grades K-6. This is up 23 participants from 2008. This would be the maximum number of participants that could be accommodated at the high school.

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- PEAK registration numbers have increased with the start of the semester. PEAK will hold the Golf Outing on May 15 at Riverwood Golf Course. Summer PEAK sites are: Ganiard, McGuire, and the High School. The reading clinic will be held at Ganiard.
- Teen Activities - The Teen Ski Trip was cancelled due mainly to the rain we experienced before the event; there were no registrations. Open Gym is held on Sunday evenings. A Bowling event will be held on Friday, March 13.

## VII. OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

- A. Chipp-a-Waters Cell Tower Proposal: Duane Ellis and Malcolm Fox presented the proposal of having a cell tower placed at Chipp-a-Waters Park for the Detroit area provider, MetroPCS to assist with General Fund Revenue.

The tower would be a minimum of 140 feet. Each additional 10 feet in height allows for another antenna to be added and an opportunity for increased revenue. The higher the tower translates to better coverage too.

Verizon currently has towers on city property. After 5 years Verizon will pay rent on the tower. The additional antennas on the tower are rented by the city and have already generated \$54,000 since 2006 (additional information was included in the agenda packet).

MetroPCS will look to have an antenna on the Riverview Apartment tower as well as the tower proposed at Chipp-a-Waters Park adjacent to the industrial area. The tower will be in a fenced area that will least negatively impact on the park. Because the towers need to be geographically placed for coverage areas it is necessary for the Chipp-a-Waters towers to be approved in order for the placements to be effective for the company.

Discussion followed and included:

Usage of the Girl Scout Cabin.

Identifying the recipient of the revenue generated.

Public input needed; sited concerns when Lion's storage building was erected.

Private use of public parks.

The Parks and Recreation Commission agreed to note their concerns and move the decision on to the City Commission with Mr. Bundy providing an overview of the discussion and concerns as follows:

- Setting a precedent for future use of public parks

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- Park Stewardship concerns
- Park Aesthetics
- Public Input Needs

B. Annual Report:

A draft of the 2008 Annual Report was shared with the Parks and Recreation Commission. A power point presentation was utilized to highlight significant points. The Annual Report is visually appealing and the high quality and creativity can be attributed to the hard work of Julie Rookard.

Commissioners echoed that the annual report is a showcase piece of the department. It was noted to include staff names in upcoming publications. Commissioners also noted their satisfaction with regard to content and especially addressing safety issues through the background check policy.

The 2008 Annual Report will be included in a Community Services Division Annual Report. This report will be presented via power point to the City Commission.

VIII. **OTHER BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- A. Historical significance of Oak Street Bridge was discussed.
- B. The City Commission agreed with the Parks and Recreation Commission to provide an easement to Sid Smith's property. Because the snow melted causing a thaw there has been a delay with the foresting. The easement will be adjusted for a specific period of time for the project to be completed. The possibility of exploring the purchase of this land will need to occur as part of the capital improvement plan.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m. C. Roberts and Daniels

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