

**Approved Minutes  
Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Commission  
Tuesday, January 27, 2009  
7:00 p.m., City Hall**

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Chair Frost.

II. **ATTENDANCE AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

A. Members Present: Carlson, Daniels, Frost, Moreno, C. Roberts, R. Roberts, & Seaman

B. Members Absent: None

C. Staff Present: Bundy, Van Hevel, Way & Weaver

D. Guests Present: None

E. Public Attendance: None

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES.**

A. Under Old & New Business, add Item D – Consider Greg Baderschneider Memorial

B. Motion by Comm. R. Roberts, second by Comm. Carlson, to approve the minutes of Tuesday, December 9, 2008. **Motion Carried.**

IV. **Election of New Officers**

A decision was made to postpone the election until two new commissioners are appointed (Comm. Frost and Seaman's terms are up in January 2009) by the City Commission. The Charter requires that "before an appointed position is filled, notice of the vacancy shall be published at least two (2) times in a local newspaper of general circulation in the City." While a prominent advertisement for volunteers for City Board and Commission appointments was printed in the Fall Edition of the City newsletter and has been run on Channel 26, the city can find no verification that such ads were run in the Morning Sun in October/November as has been our standard practice. Comm. Frost and Seaman have agreed to serve until these positions have been filled, with Comm. Frost acting as Chair.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – There were no public comments.

VI. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

A. Parks – Matt Weaver reported for Parks. Staff has been busy with snow removal and working on equipment maintenance. Staff also in planning

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stages for 2009 small/large projects for upcoming season. Seasonal staff hiring will begin in mid-February.

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

Staff has been working on updating documents, website, etc. with new logo and address. Mr. Bundy & VanHevel will present to the City Comm. the potential purchase of the WebTrac, which gives participants the option to register for programs online and pay with credit card. Training is planned for the first week of March with plans to be up and running shortly thereafter. Comm. R. Roberts asked if credit cards will be just for recreation activities. Mr. Bundy replied yes, we will only accept credit cards for recreation services. This service will include a "convenience fee" which will be a percentage of transaction.

▪ Youth Activities & Special Events

- Staff has held several activities at Morey Courts, including a teen lock-in on New Year's Eve and Winter Break Camp. Upcoming activities include a family movie night, Princess and Super Hero Party and a spring break camp.
- Staff working with area teen council to plan events including a ski trip to Snow Snake on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>, \$5 Fridays at the SAC Bowling Lanes and Open Rec Night at Morey Courts.
- The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Daddy Daughter Date Night was held on six separate times on 1/18-19 and 1/25-26. Event was low on volunteers and may be attributed to the earlier time than usual.
- Winter Learn to Bowl and leagues have started at Riverwood.
- Youth basketball practices have begun this week for 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade. Games will be held at Morey Courts this year beginning Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> with practices at the local school. There are 115 participants in the K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade program and 164 in 3-6<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Spring program registration night will be held at Finch Field House on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5-7.

VII. **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Spray Park: The established spray park sub-committee, made up of Comm. Daniels, C. Roberts & R. Roberts, met and drafted a letter to the City Commission stating the location they would prefer for the spray park. A motion was made by Comm Daniels, second by Comm. Carlson to

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present letter and recommendation as drafted to City Commission.

**Motion Carried.**

- B. Chipp-a-Waters Easement Request: An easement request was received from Sid Smith and Francine Bolle, property owners of land directly east of Chipp-a-Waters Park. The property in question (approx. 12 acres) is contiguous to the park. They are requesting a temporary easement to log the property in order to improve the woodlot by cleaning out scrub growth, downed trees and less desirable species to maximize future production and improve wildlife habitat (see attached letter from The Private Park Service Land management Solutions & Assistance). Reduction of trees would be approx. 45%. The request states that the park land would be returned to its original form after easement work is complete. After further discussion, a motion was made by Comm. R. Roberts, second by Comm. C. Roberts to recommend to the City Commission that they grant easement through Chipp-a-Waters Park for the requested work.

**Motion Carried.**

Further discussion ensued regarding the potential purchase of this property. A motion was made by Comm. R. Roberts, second by Comm. Carlson to recommend the City Commission investigate the potential purchase of said property at this time. **Motion Carried.**

- C. Master Plan: Looking to submit to the DNR by June 1, 2009.
- D. Consider Greg Baderschneider Memorial: The Parks & Recreation Commission has been asked to consider re-naming the Riverwalk Trail in Greg's honor. Plans would include modest signage along the trail. The dedication would take place upon completion of the Access Recreation Trail. A motion was made by Comm. Carlson, second by Comm. Daniels to recommend the City Commission name the Riverwalk trail "The Gregory K. Baderschneider Memorial Trail". **Motion Carried.**

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Comm. R. Roberts attended the walkability assessment presentation on January 20<sup>th</sup> with Dan Burden. Issues discussed included ways to make Mt. Pleasant more pedestrian friendly, such as bike paths, lighting, traffic calming, making the city more aesthetically pleasing, etc., as well as the City's vision for Mission Street. There were good recommendations, with concerns being the increased speed limits along Mission.

Union Township has put together a Parks & Recreation task force to address issues in their township. Mr. Bundy will be a part of this committee per the City Manager and Township Supervisor.

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*Approved: 2/24/2009*

Comm. Frost will be presenting the CMU Alumni of the Year award at the MRPA conference in February to Greg Baderschneider (posthumously). Parks & Recreation staff will be present for the occasion.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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