

CITY OF BURTON
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 1997/4:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Meeting was called to order by Paula Zelenko, Chairperson, at 4:10 P.M.

Members Present: Blundell, Hodgeson, Hindes, Crawford, Zelenko, Foutch, Bendall, Walls, Torok, Waterson, and Manzardo.

Members Absent: Kallin.

Others Present: J. Major, DPW Director; C. Ladd, Deputy City Clerk; Keith Cheli, Project Engineer, Rowe Engineering and Brent Savidant, Planner, Rowe Engineering.

PRESENTATION:

Keith Cheli explained that Brent Savidant will be working with the Commission to develop parks. At the last meeting a schedule was outlined to meeting every other meeting with Rowe Engineering. We talked about putting together information to organize a prepared schedule of dates and times when you will meet with our staff and without our staff. For this particular meeting, we have an outline to follow including a list of items for the Board to provide information at the next meeting.

Mr. Savidant asked if the by-laws had been adopted and he was advised they would be adopted at this meeting. A copy of the by-laws were given to Rowe Engineering.

Mr. Cheli then reviewed the schedule. He said they would not be meeting with the Commission on November 5th. The outline is just a guideline. He discussed the process of obtaining grants. He noted that the State is very regular in funding the grants when the Commission meets all of the criteria.

Mr. Savidant said the grants are spread throughout the State and only one out of five are selected. He then discussed the maps that will be used in the project. It's important that the maps are accurate and nothing is missing from them. The City of Burton has seven (7) school districts and they are shown on the map. The school districts are quite large and this could have an affect on the parks and recreation.

Mr. Hindes noted that only three (3) of the district, Atherton, Bendle and Bentley, are totally within the City of Burton limits.

Mr. Cheli said even though there are seven districts in the City, they may not have the facilities. The facilities inventory map may help us in the factor.

Mrs. Manzardo asked if any of the areas could be used for canoeing.

Mr. Major said some of the creeks are damable and have fish in them.

Mr. Walls noted that Kearsley and Thread Creeks would be the ones to be canoeable.

Mr. Savidant said canoeing and fishing are MNRTF fundable.

Mr. Major asked if the increase and decrease in population make a difference in whether a grant is given or not.

Mr. Savidant said he doesn't think so. Possibly the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission could be contacted to see what figures they may have.

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Mr. Savidant reviewed the following areas which are to be considered when applying for a grant:

- Transportation
- Population Growth
- Population Age
- Population Projections
- Employment and Income
- Race
- Disability

Discussion was held on each of the above items.

Mrs. Crawford asked if getting the grant money has anything to do with the population. She was advised yes.

Mr. Cheli said the higher population enhances the chances of getting a grant.

Mr. Hindes asked if the grant were given today, would it be based on the 1990 Census or the projected census for 2000. Mr. Cheli replied both, because they don't look at just one particular piece of information, but look at all of the criteria.

Mr. Savidant asked that the members provide a list of names and phone numbers of potential Recreation Providers to be interviewed. He asked that the list be turned into the Clerk's Office by Friday, October 24th at 5:00 P.M. The wider the experience, the better input we will have. We will be looking at 30 minute interviews with open-ended questions. We hope to conduct the interviews here at City Hall and have them done within one day.

Mrs. Hodgeson asked if the members would be contacting the people themselves.

Mr. Savidant said it is a good ice breaker and will warm them up to the idea of what is needed. We will be contacting the people within the next two weeks.

Mr. Cheli said we need a broad and accurate idea of what the community needs as a whole.

Mr. Major said if the information is needed by Friday, it should be called into the Clerk's Office and then turned over to Rowe Engineering.

Mr. Savidant presented a list of goals and policies and said this is what we hope to achieve with this plan. The State likes the Commission to demonstrate there was a plan and the City is trying to be consistent with the goals. He said at the November meeting we will discuss the recreational goals.

Mr. Hindes questioned whether money would be available to put pavilion up at the memorial, as people come from all over the United States to see this.

Audience Participation:

Pauline Dargel, 6119 Hugh Street, questioned whether it makes a difference if having a natural waterway when applying for a grant. She also asked if there are City lots being sold or being held onto where property has been acquired from the State.

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Mr. Major said some of the lots are sold but they were intended for Burton Neighborhood Housing. The lots can be looked at and be earmarked for Parks and Recreation.

Meeting was recessed at 5:22 P.M. and reconvened at 5:35 P.M.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Mr. Walls said that Rowe Engineering could contact him regarding the city park on Belsay and Lapeer Roads.

Discussion was held concerning the list of facilitators.

Mrs. Manzardo asked if part of the plan would be to maintain the facility once it is developed. If so, we have to think of ways to fund the maintenance.

Mr. Savidant said the ability to maintain the facility is looked at more highly by MNBR.

Mr. Major stated that once that we are at that point, we need to get more millage because the general fund cannot handle this and if we are getting in grant money, we can't afford to lose it. It would be up to us to sell the millage issue to the residents. We can put the budget together before presenting it to the residents so they can see this will not going to the general fund. This is part of the requirement of the grant.

Mrs. Manzardo asked about charging fees such as canoeing. Mr. Major said the problem is, the fees won't pay for the facility.

Mr. Cheli said he would look at some of his files to see how much other counties were spending per capita.

Mrs. Torok stated some thought needs to be given as how to keep our facilities safe.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR ACTIONS:

Mrs. Zelenko removed items 2 through 5 on the agenda.

Hindes moved and Crawford seconded the following motion:

Approve and authorize adoption of the commission by laws, as printed. Motion carried 10-0.

Richard Vickrey, 4156 Vassar Rd., suggested ways for the Commission to sell the millage to the residents. He said he would be willing to help if needed.

Topics of discussion at the next meeting will be as follows:

- Goals/Policies
- Location Maps
- Existing Parks and Recreation Plans
- Existing Properties Map

Mrs. Zelenko reminded everyone to get the list of names into the Clerk's Office by Friday at 5:00 P.M.

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Mrs. Crawford stated she had missed the last couple of meetings and explained that she may or may not be at the next couple of meetings due to health problems. She asked the Board to work with her, because she

does not want to resign her position, as this project is important to her. Everyone agreed to give her the time needed and wished her well.

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 P.M.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC/AAE
Deputy City Clerk

CML