

CITY OF BURTON
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 1999/4:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Meeting is called to order by Paula Zelenko at 4:05 P.M.

Members Present: Zelenko, LaDuke, Walls, Blundell, Manzardo, Waterson, Burger.

Members Absent: Kallin, Hodgeson, Crawford, Hindes.

Others Present: Mayor Charles Smiley, K. Cheli, Rowe Engineering, Paul Piornack, IMA Recreation Director, J. Major, DPW Director, J. Adams, Clerk's Office.

Motion by LaDuke, seconded by Walls to approve and authorize the minutes of the Meeting of October 14, 1998, 4:00 p.m., and November 11, 1998, 4:00 p.m.

Motion carried, 7-0.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

1. Review and discussion relative to Water Tower Park design at Fire Station #1.
2. Kelly Lake Regional Park.
3. Any other business or discussion germane to Commission business.

PRESENTATION: No formal presentation offered at this time.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Terryl Sperlich, 1253 Howe Rd., Burton, MI, invited everyone on the Commission to visit the Kelly Lake area and stated she would be glad to take anyone on a tour of the area. She would like the members to see what they are trying to protect and they would like to keep it as natural as possible. They would like to see pavilions and other items deleted for the reasons as stated before.

Don Sanderlin, 4460 Killarney Park, Burton, MI, spoke of the private lake at Killarney Park. He said it is private but everyone can use it, there is three picnic tables, two sets of swings and a beach they can swim and fish in. As a subdivision, they sand the beach and keep it clean. Mr. Sanderlin spoke regarding the Chamber of Commerce and other groups being involved in projects. He spoke of hiking and bike trails in Oscoda and Lapeer, Michigan.

Wayne Bovee, 1227 Howe Rd., Burton, MI, expressed thanks for the notice that went out on the meeting.

Jan Bolen, 1169 Howe Rd., Burton, MI, said her sons love to fish, but she would not allow them to take anything out of Kelly Lake or think about eating it, because no one knows what is in it. She inquired as to the cost of cleaning and maintaining it. She said she knows there has been chairs in it, kids swimming have been cut and hurt and it is dangerous. Mrs. Bolen said there also has been destruction into the wetlands, kids shooting the geese and animals with b.b. guns and that if there is easy access, there will be more destruction. She feels it will not deter the teens and gangs, and she personally, has had her fence kicked in both the front and back yard. She does not want to see the wildlife disturbed and questions the security for evenings and nights if it is opened up. They have people that come there now, but as present, there is nothing there that draws them and feels if opened and more accessible, that will create more problems.

Councilman Keith Cox, 4349 Chicory, Burton, MI, asked the Commission to give full consideration to Mayor Smiley's last request regarding Kelly Lake and the removal of certain items from the Plan. He indicated Kelly Lake is always pending, and he hopes the Commission moves slowly on it. It is good for the community now, but to open it up could create some problems and expense. He thanked the Commission for all the work they have done and for future work to still be done.

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Terryl Sperlich stated the reason they objected to the swimming beaches is because the only place safe to put a swimming beach on the lake is on the watershed side to the wetlands. You could never have it dry enough for people to do it and keep the wetlands in tack. She read the article about IMA and thinks it is great and she would love to help assist in it.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Smiley said there was a very positive response to the survey that was done. He spoke regarding the following items: Town hall meeting results on Kelly Lake, amending the Plan, meetings with IMA, ministers and schools. The Mayor stressed that the Plan is a living document that can change as the City continues to move forward and grow, and based on the community needs, there must be flexibility to meet those needs.

The Mayor stated further, that IMA is presenting a calendar of the 1999 year of what activities they will offer. It will have the Commission's guidance. The Mayor indicated that he met with IMA, some of the Parks & Recreation Commission members, ministers, and three area school superintendents. They put together a schedule he is presenting to the Commission of what they would like to accomplish. The Commission may want to add, delete and change to whatever they see fit. The Mayor said he feels it is a very aggressive recreation plan for the 1999 year, and he is excited about it. It is no cost to the City, and this will give the Commission something to start moving forward. He has invited Mr. Piornack, representing IMA, here tonight to talk about what has been put together. Mr. Piornack has worked very hard and gathered this information based on input we have given him as well as his own experience and expertise.

PRESENTATION: IMA

Mr. Piornack, IMA Recreation Director, introduced himself and said when they met with the Commission last year, they gave IMA the responsibility of coming back with a program where they could utilize the Commission as well as a recreation facility program for the youngsters in the City of Burton. They offered academies last year and wanted to see how it would work before they got everyone else involved. They had a problem of getting out the information due to the fact it was new to them and the timing of the various events. The relationship with Burton, the pastors and school superintendents is going to give them better distribution of information. Mr. Piornack spoke further regarding various sports, activities and clinics. He indicated the clinics will determine what the youths are interested in and if the IMA is pursuing the right sports areas. They have a tax exempt organization through the IMA Foundation, a that has funded participants in these programs based on single parent, no parent, and youngsters disadvantaged. They had 44 participants in the hockey program of which 13 paid their own way and 31 was funded by the IMA Foundation.

Mr. Piornack spoke briefly regarding a Three to Seven Committee which is involved with keeping youngsters busy with activities after school hours. Across the United States it is determined that between the hours of 3:00 p.m. through 7:00 p.m., parents are working, children are coming home from school alone, and that is when they can get into trouble. They are in the process of setting up a 12 month program offering recreational opportunities to youngsters through the summer and winter months for students after school, who can walk into a facility and have an activity until mom and dad get out of work. Mr. Piornack said in the City of Flint, Mr. Manley and Mr. Mott came up with this system that was used and is a model across the United States. The school superintendents are interested in this, and are looking to the Parks & Recreation Commission that will be a direct link with the community. They are looking for everyone's support and the programs are scheduled to start up in February.

Mayor Smiley spoke regarding the clinic being offered in February and said the location is still to be worked out. The Mayor said he is excited at the progress and work the Commission and IMA has done, and the residents input on the survey.

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Mrs. Zelenko said she is excited about the IMA schedule and commented on the activities for the months of January through October. She inquired as to how the kids will be notified.

Mr. Piornack said they will have colored flyers or something of that nature to draw attention to the kids. It will be posted in the schools, be a part of church bulletins and school letters sent home to the parents. Mr. Piornack indicated they will be doing mailings as well, IMA is a community service organization and they are getting back into involvement with the community under the guidance of Ron Miller from IMA.

PRESENTATION: Water Tower Park

Keith Cheli introduced Kristin Call, a landscape architect that works with Rowe. He spoke in summary of the Water Tower Park and indicated they have a set of preliminary drawings developed for that park based on the concept the Recreation Commission approved. Mr. Cheli indicated they need input from the Parks & Recreation Commission and they can assist in putting together selections of items such as benches and trash receptacles. They also need input from the Fire Chief, Rick Riess from DPW who has been involved in the development of the Water Tower Park. Mr. Cheli spoke of having the construction documents completed by the end of February which allow them to advertise the project in late winter, or very early spring when contractors are looking to line up their schedules for the 1999 construction season.

Mr. Cheli spoke further regarding a sub-committee to look over some of the selections of play structures and other items they need input on. They should also include someone from the Fire and Water Department to work with them, develop recommendations for Commission approval and completing the construction documents. Mr. Cheli suggested the last Wednesday of this month to meet with a sub-committee, present recommendations for the February 10th meeting to the Commission to take action on. The drinking fountain and fencing along the property line and access are issues to be looked at collectively at the sub-committee level.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Mr. LaDuke said he thinks it would be a good decision to have a sub-committee because sometimes with larger groups it is harder to make detailed decisions.

Mr. Walls asked Mr. Cheli how many members he would recommend for the sub-committee.

Mr. Cheli indicated three members from the Parks & Recreation Commission and if the fire and water departments cannot be involved, we need to give them the opportunity for some input based on the recommendations the sub-committee comes up with before the Parks & Recreation meeting on February 10th.

Mrs. Zelenko suggested notifying the neighborhood crime watch captain from that area to get opinions and ideas from residents.

The Mayor indicated as this time there is not an active block club there.

Mrs. Zelenko suggested Janet Kallin, a Bendle representative, to get the message out that they are starting to look at some specifics for that area. She indicated she will give Janet a call. Mrs. Zelenko asked if there are any members that would be available for the sub-committee.

Mr. Blundell, Mrs. Waterson and Mr. Walls indicated they would be available.

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Mrs. Zelenko suggested holding the sub-committee meeting on January 27th at 4:00 p.m., and it is also in the by-laws they can have the second meeting of the month. She expressed that it is a good idea to bring back twice a month meetings

Mr. Cheli mentioned notifying the Fire Department of the meeting and stated there should be more discussion at the next meeting regarding the Water Tower Park.

DISCUSSION: Amending the Parks & Recreation Plan

Mrs. Zelenko inquired as to the steps to be taken in amending the park plan.

Mr. Cheli said to amend the Plan, you need to identify the pages and sections to be amended, develop a resolution of adoption, the Parks & Recreation Commission would make a recommendation for approval, and then the Council would act on it. A formal letter is sent to the Recreation Division at the State noting that you made the amendment and it was approved, and you are submitting it to be filed with your parks and recreation plan.

Mr. Walls asked Mr. Cheli if he would handle that or does the Commission.

Mr. Cheli indicated they could provide that service for the Commission.

Mr. LaDuke indicated three months ago he made a motion on amending the Plan and asked the Mayor if he would again review his recommendations.

The Mayor said under the Kelly Lake proposal, he recommended deleting the following: pavilion, iceskating, sledding hill, playscape, softball, baseball fields, basketball courts, swimming beach, fishing pier. They will leave the access drive, parking area for a few cars, a few picnic tables and hiking trails. The Mayor indicated this is also what was heard at the meetings and is this is his recommendations at this time.

Mrs. Zelenko indicated she had noted the access, parking area, picnic table area, hiking trails and only ice-skating.

Ms. Sperlich said people do fish and ice-skate, but as mentioned before, once you sanction it, you get into legal areas. She spoke of people ice-skating and snowmobiling when it was not safe to do so.

The Mayor said we are liable regardless because it is City property. The Mayor stated further, they are not going to have DPW remove the snow and make a skating place to create those things and that it is not the intention.

Mrs. Zelenko said they will leave in access drive, parking area, picnic table area and hiking trails. It was always the Parks & Recreation Commission's understanding that softball, baseball fields and basketball courts were not going to happen unless the additional lands were acquired on the east side of the creek, such as the Genesee Christian School or any of the area homes if they were going to sell it. Mrs. Zelenko said she supports amending the plan and leaving the area as natural as possible.

Mr. Walls said he has no problem with keeping it passive, but in looking at the area in keeping it as natural as possible and doing the less damage, he feels they should come off of Munson. If they come in off of Genesee Road they would have to cut a path through the trees and fields and come along the lake. Mr. Walls inquired as to the quickest access off Munson.

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Mrs. Zelenko said they had a problem with knowing who owns the property coming off of Munson and designating that as an actual access.

Mr. Major said Mr. Walls point is well taken, but that discussion would come into effect when they do the park design for the parking and access area, and once it is presented for a design firm to do a site plan. Mr. Major indicated the access does not have to be addressed at this time but they need to get the amendment done first.

Mrs. Manzardo spoke regarding discussion at the Dan Burden seminar on holding charrettes, which is a one or two day design meeting. She feels they should do that before any amending to the Plan because there may be things in the design charrette that would have to go back in. She indicated she sees no reason to keep spending money when we do not know what we are going to do there yet.

Mr. Cheli said he thinks that was an optional element and part of the five year Parks & Recreation Plan development and something they could assist with. It basically develops an open forum to gather all input and come back with some conceptual layouts, preliminary designs and site plans that hopefully everyone will have some consensus on of what they would like to see the park develop as.

Mr. LaDuke inquired as to the cost to amend the Plan, and spoke regarding showing good faith to the people who have been asking for a long time to amend the Plan. He indicated Kelly Lake might not come up for another year, and if we are going to be aggressive in this Parks & Recreation with IMA, this Board can only be spread so thin and do good things. He does not see a lot of cost in amending this Plan to change the document.

Mr. Cheli said it would be an administrative cost of approximately a few hundred dollars to write some letters and work on documentation. He indicated the cost of approximately \$2,500 to \$3,000 for a charrette session with a conceptual plan similar to what was developed for the Water Tower Park. In reference to utilizing time and efforts, the grants are available on an annual cycle. Mr. Cheli spoke regarding a new grant category which could make available another pool of money.

Mr. Blundell said he thinks Paula Manzardo has a good idea and he feels that not only do the people have a say that live around Kelly Lake, but the rest of the City has a say in the matter also and the surveys showed that.

Mrs. Zelenko inquired as to scheduling a charrette.

Mrs. Manzardo spoke regarding kids being involved and making drawings of what they want to see.

Mr. Walls indicated there were three meetings open to the public to come and discuss what they wanted. He inquired as to how to get people to participate.

Mr. LaDuke spoke regarding amending the Plan, the conceptual drawings and Kelly Lake being a priority.

Mr. Cheli said the reason it is an issue is because that was the number one priority in applying for grants, and that was separated into two capital improvement schedules that gave the Parks & Recreation flexibility of what they were working on.

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Mr. Cox said there was some discussion about a year ago as to access, the City Council and Mr. Centilli made a point that Howe and Munson would not necessarily be an access. He said they would take Mr. Walls suggestion into consideration but to remember that our access runs along the overpass, it may be only 100 ft. off the road, and the access decision has not been made yet. A six or eight place gravel parking area with a walkway going back

certainly does not have much impact on the environmental portion. Mr. Cox said to spend \$3,000 to determine where to place the picnic tables, if that is the Commission's intention, will not sit well with him as a Council member and he would not be in support of it. If at a future time there is to be further development or needs to be studied, he is certainly open to that. Mr. Cox spoke further of yearly grants, re-applying, making changes and stated that this is a living document.

Mrs. Manzardo said Mr. Cox is correct, if we amend the Plan and can have only picnic tables, hiking trails and a six or eight car parking lot, it would be futile having any kind of design charrette. She thinks of the Commission as a public trust and making the best possible decision of what they think is right and what they think the public is looking for. Mrs. Manzardo said she thinks the design charrette does that. Mr. Burden said it is a tool used very effectively, it is non-confrontational and people put in the Plan what they like and it involves the whole community. She does not know who will show up for it, but they do show up in other communities. Mrs. Manzardo spoke further on the members losing interest and feeling like they are spending a lot of time but not getting anywhere. They should make a decision to gather design information and do something, or abandon the site and do something else. She indicated the IMA is great but that is just a side thing.

Councilman Charles Cross, 1092 S. Packard, Burton, MI, said as one descending vote for this park plan, he is overwhelmed and glad to see this Commission coming around to what he originally said, which was to leave Kelly Lake natural, and that is the reason he voted against the park. It was not because he was against Parks & Recreation, Kelly Lake is one place where it should stay natural. Mr. Cross said he listens to constituents and walked the area before he voted. He spoke with residents and listened to them and they said exactly what the Mayor is saying now, to leave it natural. To amend it, he does not think you need to send it out for big administrative fees, and if amended tonight, it could be brought to Council. Mr. Cross said to start cutting these costs and use the extra money in a park somewhere.

Ms. Sperlich said of the three town hall meetings that were held, this is the group that showed up. She said she knows the area like the back of her hand and indicated she could show on paper how this could work, as opposed to \$3,000 to have someone tell you where to put the picnic tables. Calling people who know nothing about the issue seems like a waste of time and energy. Ms. Sperlich stated further, in theory it is a great idea, but in reality, these are the people who will show up.

Jan Bolen said regarding the town hall meetings and getting every persons opinion, she did not feel it was a threatening thing and felt she could give her opinion. She thinks a charrette would be duplicating what they have already done and are wasting our money.

Don Sanderlin spoke regarding fishing in the Killarney Park lake. He feels as far as Kelly Lake they are defeating the purpose of a park for the City.

Mrs. Manzardo said the survey shows people want things and she does not know where you are going to do those things if we don't do them there, we do not have a lot of land in Burton. A design charrette is a tool and may appear to be a waste of money to some people, but if it brings the community together in a design process and works things out, she feels it is not a waste of money especially if they are responding to the residents.

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The Mayor said he wants to remind the Commission, the Parks & Recreation Plan and everything in it, that the only purpose for this Plan is to apply for grants, period. If it is in here we can apply for grants, if not, we cannot apply for grants. They received a very generous gift from a resident and the Commission could do something with that money somewhere else, we just have to fully fund it by some other means. He does not consider this to be defeated because we are comprising or changing the Plan. He agrees, the beauty of that place is to keep it natural and not disturb the wetlands. The other things mentioned were going to be at the school property and there is not enough room to have

it there. They fish in there now and we are not going to stop it. We are not going to encourage it, but we are not going to stop it. Kelly Lake is not the only piece of property in this City that we have access to utilize. The Mayor indicated they need to come together on negotiating and working together.

Mr. LaDuke said this is a living document and there is funds available to do another study in a year. There was town hall meetings and people came to them and said please leave Kelly Lake the way it is. He does not see the need to go into Kelly Lake right now with a grandiose plan when there is other things we can do in this City for Parks & Recreation. Kids are a priority to him personally, and he thinks the Parks & Recreation Commission are on a good path because we are going to start with that and the IMA is a good tool to use. We are getting caught up in amending something, that next week if some other idea came up we can amend it back. We are not making a permanent commitment to these people, they have asked us through their input to amend it and if something comes up that can convince the majority of this Board, we can just as easily amend it back.

Mr. Walls said he understands Mr. LaDuke and the Mayor that it is a living document, it can be changed tonight and will cost us a certain amount of money. Next month we could come back and change it, and that costs a certain amount of money, so it is a living document. Right now, he does not see special plans going on in there, and if you are changing just to change and it is going to cost the City money, why change it just to be able to change it back.

Mrs. Zelenko said sometimes you have to show an act of faith. This is an act of faith shown to the residents and the rest of the citizens reflected in the survey and town hall meetings by taking this step. The cost is trivial to amend the Plan and she will vote to amend it.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR ACTION:

Moved by LaDuke, seconded by Burger to amend the Plan.

Motion denied, 4-3.

Zelenko - yes, LaDuke - yes, Walls - no, Blundell - no, Manzardo - no, Waterson - no, Burger - yes.

Mr. Blundell said he went to the IMA meeting yesterday and there were some good ideas. One of the ministers brought up the idea of a 2000 Olympics for the City. It does not have to be just sports, it can be academics and he feels this could bring the City closer together. Regarding monthly letters, the churches are going to make a paragraph available in their flyers they hand out and schools will hand out flyers also. This is geared for everyone whether they can afford it or not.

Mrs. Waterson said she thinks it is a great idea.

Mrs. Manzardo said she supports this also and inquired as to transportation.

Mr. Blundell said some of the ministers mentioned church buses being utilized.

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Mrs. Zelenko said in reference to IMA, she is excited and impressed with the amount of activities offered and is in support of this.

Mr. LaDuke stated all eyes are on the Commission because we are new and whatever we do, it is important we do it well. He has no problem with making a motion to adopt this IMA plan in theory. He wants to make sure each thing they do is successful because that will breed success in the next thing we do. If youth organizations are run professionally and fun for the kids it will keep going. Mr. LaDuke said he would like to see a sub-committee and meet with Mr. Piornack to detail things a little more.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS
AND/OR ACTION:

Moved by LaDuke, seconded by Walls to accept the IMA Plan in forming a sub-committee to address the needs of the IMA.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Mrs. Zelenko stated she will contact the other members of the Commission that did not attend the meeting today, and they will wait until the next meeting to set up a sub-committee meeting. The County Bike Path meets on February 9th at the Harris Auditorium. The Mayor has met with Consumers Power regarding railway and utility right-of-ways, and they are more than willing to work with us.

Mrs. Manzardo spoke regarding the VG store's receipts as a fund raiser for beautification projects. She asked for any further ideas on collecting receipts and getting the word out.

Mr. Cheli suggesting teaming up with IMA and putting it in their brochure.

Mrs. Zelenko said the next meeting for Parks & Recreation is scheduled for February 10th at 4:00 p.m. and also to consider another meeting for February 24th and the Commission meeting twice a month.

Mr. Cross spoke regarding raising money and suggested having canisters in various businesses placed by cash registers.

Mrs. Zelenko said the sub-committee members for the Water Tower Park is Rebecca Waterson, Bob Walls and Rick Blundell, and they will have representatives from the Fire Department and DPW. The sub-committee meeting is scheduled for January 27th at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: No audience participation.

the topics of next month's agenda.

Mrs. Zelenko indicated next month's agenda they will discuss the Water Tower Park from the sub-committee.

Mrs. Waterson thanked Paula Manzardo for her work and time she devoted towards the Dan Burden seminar.

Meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

JRA