

CITY OF BURTON
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
MARCH 10, 1999/4:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Meeting is called to order by Paula Zelenko at 4:08 P.M.

Members Present: Zelenko, LaDuke, Kallin, Walls, Hodgeson, Hindes, Crawford, Waterson, Burger.

Members Absent: Blundell, Manzardo

Others Present: J. Major, DPW Director, J. Adams, Clerk's Office.

Moved by Hindes, seconded by Hodgeson to approve and authorize the minutes of the Meeting of February 24, 1999, at 4:00 p.m.

Motion carried, 9-0.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

1. Review & discussion relative to Parks & Recreation budget of 1999/2000
2. Fire Station #1/Water Tower Park Plans & Specifications Review
3. Kelly Lake Regional Park
4. Any other business or discussion germane to Commission business

PRESENTATION: No presentation at this time.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Teryl Sperlich, 1253 Howe Rd., Burton, MI, inquired regarding the re-submitting of the Kelly Lake Plan.

Mrs. Zelenko said it would be re-applying for the grant for access to Kelly Lake, which is the same application that was put in before.

Ms. Sperlich said she is opposed to the Kelly Lake grant for the same reasons she has stated in the past. She spoke of her interest in helping with playscapes, her involvement and work with at-risk kids, and teaching government and history. Ms. Sperlich said she speaks as a volunteer, loves the community and wants to work with the Commission, but is opposed to the Kelly Lake Plan.

John Stapish, 5160 E. Atherton Rd., Burton, MI inquired as to the amount of the grant. He spoke regarding the Fraternal Order of Police property off of Bristol road being utilized by the Commission.

Mrs. Zelenko indicated the match was about \$16,000 and the FOP property off Bristol Rd. was already sold.

Mr. Stapish spoke further on the Water Tower Park and traffic studies for that corner area. He indicated for a 24 hour period, there is 78,601 vehicles that pass through that intersection. He expressed his concerns for children being hurt or killed with the amount of traffic in that area.

Jan Bolen, 1169 Howe Rd., Burton, MI, said she hopes the Commission will not apply for the Kelly Lake grant again. There were town hall meetings on it, the people did not ask for it, they wanted green areas and were not concerned with swimming beaches. Mrs. Bolen said when the surveys went out, they did not get a great abundance of them back who were real interested in it. Mrs. Bolen inquired as to statements made regarding a park director.

Mr. Major said his position was, if they want to move forward, they will have to start looking at funding a park director, someone who can do the paperwork, apply for grants and do the applications on a full time basis. They may need someone on a part time basis to begin with, and eventually working into full time.

Mrs. Bolen said if that is the plan, what will it cost the people of the City for this new position.

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Mr. Major said with a fringe package, probably somewhere around \$75,000 a year. A third of the salary possibly out of the Parks & Recreation budget, a third from the Building Dpt., or a third from another area of the City.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Fire Station #2 Park

Mrs. Waterson reviewed the Fire Station #2 Park. She has figures of around \$25,000, which includes \$10,000 for the fibar, \$3,000 for the sign, and \$12,000 for the new play structures.

Mr. Walls spoke with regards to going with a full playground fibar or just around the play equipment.

Davison Road Side Park

Mr. LaDuke spoke regarding the Davison Road Side Park, and indicated he called the Genesee County Park Board and asked them if they wanted to participate with the City of Burton in updating and maintaining that park. He was told that it did not come into the scheme of a recreational park, and we cannot expect it to be maintained any better than it is today. Mr. LaDuke said with that in mind, he put together a budget. A playscape, grills, benches, picnic tables, and items like that is approximately \$26,000. They would first have to go in and trim trees, mow, clean up the park because it has been neglected for so many years. The yearly maintenance will have to be incorporated into the Parks & Recreation budget, is estimated around \$12,000.

Mr. LaDuke spoke briefly on the history of the park. The Director of the Genesee County Park Board indicated that when we became a City, it was a State park. The State park gave it back to Burton, but we did not have a park department, so the County said they would maintain it. They indicated that they are more of a regional park and do not have a desire to get involved with a small park concept anymore. Mr. LaDuke said if the Commission is going to start a park, that would be a good place to start.

Brief discussion followed regarding County maintenance cost, County millage and what it covers.

Mrs. Zelenko indicated for the Davison Road Side Park, they have an estimated cost of approximately \$38,755.

Mrs. Hodgeson spoke of getting the community together in a project for a first initial clean-up.

Mr. Major said there will be three items to categorize, starting with approximately \$46,000 for park improvements and the fall area, a one time expenditure of \$5,000 to clean it all up, yearly maintenance of \$17,000 - \$19,000 which includes this park and others.

Mrs. Zelenko inquired as to the yearly maintenance cost from Mr. LaDuke of \$12,000.

Mr. LaDuke said the cost of doing things in-house can be more expensive. All of their equipment is rented, which they rent back from the motor pool. The push behind lawnmowers are at \$22.00 an hour, which is the lawnmower cost and not the person. Mr. LaDuke said that the table is sent to them from the State on that item. Mr. LaDuke said he came up with those costs after taking the mowing every other week with two people at so many hours. He indicated those numbers can be fine-tuned, but it would be cheaper billing it out to a mowing contractor instead of utilizing City staff.

Veterans Memorial

Mr. Hindes spoke regarding the Veterans Memorial budget, and indicated he is still waiting for one bid to come in regarding the electricity and speaker for the pavilion. They have a cost of \$4,000 for picnic tables, \$3,000 for benches and \$2,500 for the orifice for the eternal flame. The paver brick, slab and edging for the walkway between the pavilion and memorial is around \$975. Trash containers are approximately \$800 and the base for the cannon and anchoring it down is around \$200. Mr. Hindes said that will bring a total cost of approximately \$12,000 to \$15,000.

Brief discussion followed regarding the cost of the picnic tables and the materials to be used to construct them. Mr. Hindes said there will be 4 picnic tables at \$1,000 a piece.

Sign at Atherton and Center Road

Mrs. Hodgeson indicated she has some estimates on the sign. She would like the sign cornered so it can be seen by both sides that would list Welcome to the City of Burton, population, established date, the Mayor at the time and the City's motto. She would like Parks & Recreation on the bottom of the sign, landscaping around it and flagpoles with flags. Mrs. Hodgeson stated for the sign and landscaping she has estimated a cost of \$4,200.

Brief discussion followed regarding picnic tables at the Atherton and Center Road site and possible parking. An estimated cost of \$5,200 is for the project.

Markeee at City Hall

Mrs. Zelenko suggested considering one for City Hall similar to the markee at the Senior Citizens Center which was approximately \$8,000.

County Bike Path and Bike Lane

Mrs. Zelenko thanked Mr. LaDuke for helping get the figures for a bike lane on Court Street, east of Belsay Road to the Davison Township limits. Davison is interested in connecting to Burton through the Court Street area. Mrs. Zelenko said there is an estimate of around \$35,000 to install that bike lane, which will be on the south side of the street.

Mr. LaDuke said it is 6 ft. wide bike path asphalt on an existing shoulder. There is an existing 8 to 10 ft. wide limestone shoulder, they would extend the asphalt, have a white stripe down the side and have a 6 ft. bike path. There were some areas that needed some underground storm sewers by the manufactured home community and a ditch that would need enclosing.

Mrs. Zelenko said a storm sewer costs \$6,600, and grading along the shoulder is \$2,800. They have one estimate of \$14,000 for a more course asphalt bituminous mix for paving, and another for \$8,000 which is a finer asphalt.

Mr. LaDuke said the bike path would be over a mile.

Mrs. Zelenko said Davison wants to come down Irish Road to Court Street, and then up Court Street. The end result will be to get through Flint to the Farmers Market, then along the river to Stepping Stone Falls. Mrs. Zelenko said the other option is the catwalk over the expressway on Court Street, which has a small bike path on the south side of the expressway. Rosemary Hamilton from Bootleggers said she is more than happy to allow us to have a right-of-way down by the ditch there and then connect to Court Street South.

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County Bike Path

Mrs. Zelenko spoke further regarding expenses in the upcoming year for County Bike Path meetings. She spoke with the president of the Clio Chamber of Commerce that is spearheading the whole effort, and she does not expect any big costs right now. They are looking at all the communities that are interested in coming up with ways to connect the bike paths and collectively in the future, submit for grant monies to help them.

Mrs. Zelenko said since they are slated to re-surface Court Street from Belsay Road to Vassar Road this year, she asked Ralph to come up with some estimates for putting in a bike lane there.

Atherton School

Mr. LaDuke said with Atherton's Bond issue, tennis courts would be moved and other items addressed if it is successful.

Mrs. Zelenko indicated school improvements for Atherton School in the Park Plan was to help improve ball diamonds. They earmarked an amount of \$12,000 for that.

Bendle School

Mrs. Zelenko said they listed for Bendle School volleyball courts to develop. The ideas and goals when they did the plan was to provide similar types of recreation at the three schools.

Mrs. Kallin said when checking with the Bendle School Board, tennis courts was discussed. The problem is whenever they put a net up, the kids take it down and they roller-hockey there, which may be more of a demand there. Mrs. Kallin spoke further of a playscape at West Bendle. Brief discussion followed regarding a playscape, and an approximate cost of \$26,000.

Bentley School

Mr. Burger said on March 8, 1999, Bentley School Board discussed their joint venture with the Parks & Recreation. They were ecstatic that the Parks & Recreation Commission wants to get involved in projects with them. Numerous areas were discussed, and it was decided they would like to have a backstop, fence and protective yellow tubing at the new baseball diamond at Barhitte Elementary School, which will cost approximately \$7,000 to \$8,000.

Mrs. Zelenko indicated Rick Blundell could not be at this meeting, but has a packet for everyone in regards to information from IMA's programs, the ministers meeting and information on a fund raiser.

Visionary Session

Mrs. Zelenko said everyone should have a copy of a letter from Keith Cheli regarding the trailway charrette, public input and planning a charrette. It is estimated at \$1,500 for this project cost.

Mr. Major said he would like to put in the budget, a third of the salary of a parks director of around \$25,000.

Mr. Hindes said the cost of the drinking fountain will be part of the memorial project cost of \$12,000 to \$15,000.

Mrs. Zelenko said this list will be submitted to the Mayor for his review. Mrs. Zelenko stressed that the costs on the list are not necessarily things that will happen and there are certain items with large costs that might have to be spread over a couple of years, or taken in phases.

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Mr. Major said it will basically be the capital improvements budget and Mr. Becker will continue with the on-going maintenance and operations budget as he normally does.

COMMISSION

RECOMMENDATIONS
AND/OR ACTION:

Moved by Walls, seconded by Hodgeson to accept the amounts that have been discussed and present it to the Mayor for the budget.

Motion carried, 9-0.

Fire Station #1/Water Tower Park

Mrs. Zelenko spoke regarding the plans and information from Rowe.

Mr. Major said Rowe is asking for approval to solicit the bids, they will come back to the Commission to make a determination with administration and Mr. Centilli. You may possibly want to go with a private contractor or for Rowe to take it over as a project itself. Mr. Centilli did ask to take bids on it, and Mr. Major said they need to approve these final plans and authorize Rowe to proceed with bidding.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS
AND/OR ACTION:

Moved by Walls, seconded by Hindes to approve and authorize the final plans of Fire Station #1/Water Tower Park and authorize Rowe to solicit for bids.

Motion carried, 9-0.

Kelly Lake

Mrs. Zelenko spoke regarding Kelly Lake and re-applying for the grant.

Mr. Walls said he knows it is a very intensive issue, and we have some really beautiful projects going on right now with the Water Tower Park and the Davison Road Side Park. They should emphasize the projects they are currently working on now.

Mrs. Hodgeson said she agrees with Mr. Walls comments. Kelly Lake has not been turned over to the City yet and they are still looking at the wetlands and certification, so it could be years down the road. She feels they should table Kelly Lake and work on the projects that will be more beneficial to our community.

Mrs. Kallin spoke in agreement and feels the Davison Road Side Park is a great opportunity. She feels they should move forward there and put Kelly Lake aside.

Mr. Burger also concurred with prior comments and said he would like to see Kelly Lake at this time remain as a dream for us. We have a full plate and if we take on too much, we will burden ourselves and not get any of these other projects done.

Mrs. Zelenko said the grant application deadline is April 1st. If the Commission wants to apply for the grant they have to do so now and submit it to the State by April 1st.

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COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS
AND/OR ACTIONS:

Moved by Walls, seconded by Kallin to not apply for the Michigan National Resource Trust Fund Grant on Kelly Lake.

Motion carried, 9-0.

Mrs. Zelenko spoke regarding the letter they received on the prior Kelly Lake grant and indicated the back of the letter was information on the recreation grant application for the Clean Michigan Initiative, which Michigan voters approved, better known as Proposal C. There is \$50 million for grants to assist local governments in renovation and development of public recreation facilities including both indoor outdoor recreation projects. The minimum grant amount is \$15,000 with a maximum of \$750,000, the grant team must provide 25% of the total project cost as matched. School districts and intermediate school districts are not eligible. Mrs. Zelenko said at the next meeting she would like discussion regarding Thread Creek or the Davison Road Side Park to possibly qualify for this funding. She will contact Keith Cheli from Rowe Incorporated on this also.

Mr. LaDuke spoke regarding the budget and salary of a park director. He indicated they need someone who is earmarked 5 to 10 hours a week, and that person will be responsible back to the Commission. He spoke further of Mr. Major's time and involvement, and the lack of funding for it.

Mrs. Zelenko stated since the last meeting Brad Becker was present, they have spent approximately \$5,000.

Mr. Walls inquired regarding taking part of the budget they are sending to the Mayor, and designate it towards paying an employee's wages.

Mr. LaDuke said he would hope that is part of the budget request and the Mayor will address that in his budget discussions.

Mrs. Zelenko said the Mayor wanted costs from us on the projects and some of those projects with the schools may be shared costs.

Mr. Hindes read aloud the letter of thanks to the Rotary, and stressed the need to complete the Veterans Memorial project.

Mr. Burger inquired as to the job duties and qualifications of a Parks & Recreation Director.

Mr. LaDuke said at this time, the most important role would be a facilitator of the programs and keeping things organized.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Mrs. Dargel spoke regarding speaking with the DEQ in Lansing, and the Clean Michigan Initiative with regards to Thread Creek.

Mrs. Zelenko said she has questions regarding grants to acquire land for resource protection are available only under the Michigan National Resource Trust Fund, and she does not know how it would overlap. At the next meeting there should be more information on that.

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Mrs. Dargel indicted April 16th is the first round and in October is another round. She commented further on the new flags and how nice they look, and also, the items on the list for the budget. Mrs. Dargel said in regards to the charrette, she feels they already had those and dealt with the five year plan.

Mrs. Zelenko read briefly a letter by Keith Cheli from Rowe regarding the trailways and recreation charrette session.

Mrs. Dargel commented on the trails on Court Street and limiting it to Belsay Road to Vassar Road. She also addressed a newspaper article on changes in Davison, with the City and Township.

Ms. Sperlich spoke regarding the cost of the lawnmower fees. She indicated Grand Blanc is trying to get a rollerblading park area and is having trouble with liability. Ms. Sperlich also said the County is talking of making a park and the Commission may want to talk with them on it.

Steve Heffner, 1181 Munson, Burton, MI, asked how much was spent from August 20, 1997 to present, how much Rowe Incorporated has been paid, and inquired further regarding the grant match money.

Mrs. Zelenko stated an amount of \$9,175.53 and said they still have \$63,032.10, as of January 31, 1999. Mrs. Zelenko said the \$17,000 match is in the capital improvement budget.

Mr. Heffner inquired with regards to the Memorial Day Parade.

Mrs. Zelenko said there is a Memorial Day Celebration Committee.

Mr. Hindes said he is on the Committee and thought it had been mentioned at a prior Parks & Recreation meeting. Mr. Hindes spoke briefly on the festivities.

Mr. Heffner said he would like to see the Commission promote Flag Week before the parade to try to get people to get their flags out. Mr. Heffner spoke further regarding the Atherton and Center Road area of the proposed Burton sign.

Mrs. Dargel said at the visioning session and/or town hall meeting at Bendle, it was indicated a playscape at West Bendle would be a good location because the equipment needed to be taken down for safety factors. She suggested prioritizing where there are numbers of children.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Zelenko commented that she travels I-69 every day and sees "Flint Next 4 Exits" signs, but does not see any Burton signs.

Mr. LaDuke said he will look into it.

Mrs. Zelenko said the **next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 1999, at 4:00 p.m.** Rowe will be present and she will get with Keith Cheli on the Clean Michigan Initiative Grant and if any of the proposed projects will qualify.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:35 P.M.

JRA