

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

The Meeting is called to order by Julie Adams at 4:08 P.M.

Members Present: Hodgeson, Hindes, Crawford, Roach, Abbey, Waterson, West

Members Absent: Blundell, Zelenko, Walls, Manzardo, Perry

Others Present: J. Major, DPW Director, R. LaDuke, Building Inspector Superintendent,
J. Adams, Clerk's Office.

Julie Adams opened the meeting and asked the Commission to elect an acting Chairperson to conduct the meeting due to the absence of Paula Zelenko and Paula Manzardo.

Moved by Crawford, seconded by Hindes to election Mr. Abbey to chair the meeting.
Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Crawford, seconded by Hindes to approve and authorize the minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting of September 1, 1999, at 4:00 p.m. with correction to reflect the meeting was held at Fire Station #1.
Motion carried, 7-0.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

1. Fire Station #1 / Water Tower Park – Progress Report
2. Improvements to Veterans Memorial Park – Progress Report
3. Fire Station #2 – Progress Report
4. Davison Road Side Park / Take Over Report by Sub-Committee
5. Bendle / CD Playground Equipment Request
6. Review of By-laws
7. Election of Officers
8. Any other business or discussion germane to Commission business

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Neil Martz, Developer of Maple Pointe Subdivision, indicated one of the requests of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is the development of a conservation easement around the existing wetlands. Mr. Martz spoke further of the map he handed out to the Commission and stated one of the issues he has to deal with is the creation of additional wetlands. He owns approximately six acres at the end of Wagner Dr. and adjacent to 10 acres. He is asking to determine whether there is any desire from the City of Burton if he creates additional wetlands and a wildlife refuge. One of the requirements for the mitigation of the wetland is to create a water source to charge the wetland. The MDEQ does not believe a developer or individual will be responsible enough to activate and monitor the well and keep water in the wetland being created. In an attempt to satisfy their concerns and also comply to their wishes to expand the wetlands, which they prefer would be adjacent to his development, he has very limited opportunities since the only vacant area is there.

Mr. Martz inquired if he places a well in this area at his expense, bring power to the well and put it in an operational position, would the City of Burton Parks & Recreation Commission be willing to be gifted the well, the area he created as a wildlife sanctuary or open passive space for the City of Burton. He is interested in getting feedback from the Commission.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Mr. Hindes asked if the Mayor, City Council and DPW is aware of this.

Mr. Martz said he has not been through the Mayor's Office, but he has been in conversation with the DPW as it relates to what he is attempting to do. The Parks & Recreation Commission is one of the several body's he has to have conversation with. If this Board is opposed to this, his next solution would be to talk to Duck's Unlimited or the County Parks system or some other agency. His preference is to give this to the City of Burton.

Mr. Major said he suggests at this time it be referred to the DPW to bring a report back to you whether it is a feasible alternative. He does not think for Neil's presentation estimate to the DNR, it is an unreasonable concept to the City.

Mr. Martz spoke briefly on the site area. He stated he has been in continual conversation with the DNR for the last three years. He would like to represent to the DNR tomorrow that he did have conversation with the Parks & Recreation Commission and they may consider taking this if he sets this up correctly.

Mr. Hindes made a motion for the Commission go on record supporting this, contingent upon what the DPW says. Motion failed due to lack of support.

Mr. LaDuke said Mr. Martz is proposing a theory, they do not know if it is beneficial to the City until they research it. He does not feel a motion is needed, but a consensus of theory is what Mr. Martz needs now.

Mrs. Hodgeson inquired as to the size of the site and access for cars.

Mr. Martz said the area is approximately 6 acres and is more proposed to be a passive area for people to walk back there and maybe for wildlife to exist. It is being set up as a conservation district and not a full-fledge play park. Perhaps to be utilized as an educational tool for some of the schools and conservation groups for expansion for habitat.

Mrs. Crawford asked Mr. Martz if he took away some wetlands and the DNR is making him put back some.

Mr. Martz indicated that is correct, but he is proposing something that will be beneficial to the City. There are other ways maybe to do this, and this is one of many options he has explored that would be beneficial to a variety of people.

Mr. Abbey said in theory it is something that may be viable and they should look at it and explore their options.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Pauline Dargel, 6119 Hugh St., Burton, MI, commented regarding having an identifiable organization in dealing with the DEQ, and inquired in reference to back-up materials for the Parks & Recreation Commission agenda items.

Mr. Major responded that in reference to the reports, his position is that until the Parks & Recreation Commission accepts the report, it is not available to the public.

PRESENTATION:

Fire Station #1

Mr. Major indicated the only item to be addressed is the completion of the fencing, and they have to comply with MISS DIG. The company claims the fencing will go up this week but they have not done any staking yet, which they have requested three or four times.

Veterans Memorial Park

Mr. Hindes spoke of some of the events for Veterans Day and stated the Atherton School Band will be part of the program. He was notified today there are scratches and dents on the name plates at the Memorial which could be caused by kids being destructive. Mr. Hindes suggested looking into some type of plexi-glass to protect the name plates.

Mr. Abbey expressed looking at different protective coverings for the name plates.

Fire Station #2

Mr. Major said Mr. Riess is still checking into sizes and costs for a small playscape.

Mrs. Waterson indicated the sub-committee decided they would like to move some of the equipment and have a bigger unit. She would like to contact the sales representative that put in the Fire Station #1's equipment and have them come to Fire Station #2 and see what they need at the park. She indicated that maybe they could a walkway through it. She will contact the sub-committee members so they can set-up an appointment with the sales representative.

Davison Road Side Park

Mrs. Waterson indicated their report reflects a couple of plans they have in mind.

Mr. Major suggested the Parks & Recreation Commission members review it and discuss at the next regular meeting.

Mr. LaDuke spoke briefly regarding the County Parks & Recreation's lack of interest in doing a joint venture with Burton's Parks & Recreation Commission on the Davison Road Side Park.

Bendle / CD Playground Equipment Request

Mr. Abbey said he spoke to the Bendle Superintendent and they have some concrete plans of what they want and need. There are two companies they are waiting for bids for the playground equipment which will be at South Bendle.

Review Of By-Laws

Mr. Major indicated the by-laws have been in effect since October 1997, and suggested the Commission Members review them and see if anything needs to be revised.

Mr. Hindes spoke regarding Article 8, in reference to absenteeism.

Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Waterson expressed that the by-laws should stay the same.

Election of Officers

Mr. Abbey said he feels the election of officers should be addressed at the next meeting due to the absence of Commission members.

Mr. Roach concurred with Mr. Abbey that they should wait until there are more members present.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR ACTION:

Moved by Hodgeson, seconded by Waterson to extend for 60 days the officers in their positions on the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Moved by Hindes, seconded by Crawford to accept the by-laws as written.

Motion carried, 7-0.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Mrs. Dargel said she agrees that the playground equipment at South Bendle is an area where that is needed. She inquired regarding CD dollars being used for projects.

Mr. Major stated normally they put in \$10,000 in CD money a year for a project, but there may not be enough CD dollars to do a worthy Bendle project.

Mrs. Dargel said she thought there was already allocated CD funds for the current year.

Mr. Major said he believes there is \$10,000 or \$15,000, and another \$10,000 is proposed. There is not a defined project yet to know what that amount is going to be until they get the report back from Bendle on what they request.

Mrs. Dargel spoke further regarding volunteers being involved at Flushing Park and having volunteers put forth an effort with the County Parks. In regards to taking over the Davison Road Side Park, it is her understanding it is a decision that will be made by the Council and she hopes they would provide a hearing. Mrs. Dargel stated further, that the first of September in The Flint Journal, there was an article on Page C-4, indicating the Road Runner Express is donating two acres to the City of Burton for use as a park or recreation area. She asked if there is any information on this.

Mr. Abbey said one of the concerns residents had over there was that the Road Runner Express might need additional parking or space, and intrude into the back of their property. To alleviate the problem, the Mayor asked the new owners of that property and Road Runner Express if they would consider donating that to the City so they could ensure the residents that it would not come any farther back and there would be no expansions in the future. If the Parks and Recreation want to take that over in the future, we are open to that.

Mrs. Dargel asked if the donation has been accepted and who does the accepting.

Mr. Abbey said it was our request, so he assumes it has been accepted.

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Mr. Major said he does not think there has been a title yet.

Mr. Abbey said they are starting that process.

Mr. Major said the administration has offered to accept it, and once they have a title they will have the Mayor and Clerk execute the acceptance. He does not feel it needs Council action to accept a piece of property to the City.

Mr. Hinds said a copy of the agenda should be sent to the Atherton School Superintendent because the Bentley and Bendle School Superintendents are listed on the agenda to receive a copy.

Brief discussion followed regarding property being donated and gifted to the City.

Mr. Abbey stated they will address the playground equipment request from Bendle School at the next regular Parks & Recreation Commission meeting.

Mr. Hinds indicated he will contact the County Parks & Recreation regarding what is involved into having music in the park.

Moved by Hinds, seconded by Crawford to adjourn the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:15 P.M.

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