

CITY OF BURTON
PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 12, 2012, 5:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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The Parks & Recreation Meeting was called to order by Mr. Craig at 5:32 p.m.

Commissioner Rob Spose led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig, Adams, Hildreth, Spose, Dunsmore, Moore, Heffner and Miron.

ABSENT: Bauldry.

OTHERS PRESENT: B. Bigsby, Parks & Recreation Director.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

1. DNR Update
2. Possible walking trail at New testament Church
3. Potential Fall Road Race
4. Possible First Tee/IMA/ Burton P&R Partnership
5. Safety Day Update and Request
6. Trick or Treat Trail

DNR UPDATE

Lisa Easterwood from Flies and Vanderbrink gave an over view of the DNR ruling on the Parks & Recreation Grant Application to date. There are 142 applicants and our preliminary score is 330. Page one of the evaluation worksheet #7 is incorrect. A public meeting was held and a resolution was passed supporting the application within six months prior to the deadline. Ms. Easterwood confirmed this with Tamara from the Department of Natural Resources. The maximum number of points available is 520. We would not be able to get that many points because of median income. Another sticking point is that the Park must be 20 years old to get more points. Supplemental information needs to be back to the DNR by 9/21.

Ms. Easterwood feels there are a couple of areas we may be able to improve. The first one is in the collaboration category. She feels by getting some letters possibly from the Transom Twister Club and from the Kiwanis group we may be able to increase our score. The letter submitted with the grant from the Wetland Specialist gave the wetland a low quality due to cattail marsh and frag mites. The DNR recommended having the Wetland Specialist change the wording and that could help to increase our score value of recreation. Another area that was a concern of the DNR is ADA universal access. The handicap parking is not directly connected to the walkway. A barrier free connection can be made between the parking lot and boardwalk. An extension of the pathway can be made with a limestone surface. It is estimated that the cost would be around \$7,000 to \$8,000 and it would meet ADA and universal access requirements.

Mr. Spose inquired if that was the only thing keeping us from getting points and what does increasing our points mean.

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Ms. Easterwood responded that it just raises the score to be more competitive with other entities scores. She feels we can go with 330 points since they did say we scored above average. It depends on how much money those above us are asking for.

Mr. Craig said going back to Council for more money may not be feasible.

Ms. Easterwood stated that the DNR will accept limestone surface. The consensus of the group was that they would like to see the 10 foot pathway extended. It would not need to be bid out, just add it as a supplemental. If we get the grant it can be done separately. Every project we do should be done thinking about ADA compliance.

SAFETY DAY

Ken Gould applied for a grant in the amount of \$2,000 from Wal-mart. The cheapest smoke detector that Wal-mart has is \$4.88 which is the same one that is currently given out. Mrs. Bigsby is going to try to find them cheaper. Mr. Gould has commitments from Genesee County hazmat truck, smoke house and aerial ladder truck to have at Wal-mart. Mr. Gould is requesting money from Parks & recreation to go toward the safety day. It includes bounce houses and food. Mr. Spose is working with Lowe's trying to get smoke detectors free. He is still waiting for an answer. The Fire Department normally purchases 600 smoke detectors. Mr. Spose is also asking to get a coupon that could be used that weekend.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION AND/OR ACTION:

Moved by Miron and seconded by Craig to allocate \$2,000 toward the safety day event. Motion carried 8-0.

POSSIBLE WALKING TRAIL AT NEW TESTAMENT

Mike Beath from New Testament Church came to talk to the Commission about a possible walking trail at New Testament Church. They have 46 acres of property and currently use 13 acres for the church. Hunts Farms grows crops on the other 33 acres that they would like to turn back into a wildlife area with natural ground cover.

Mr. Spose inquired if they would be looking at having benches and lights.

Mr. Beath replied they had not thought that far, they are just trying to get the preliminary items dealt with first. They would have to partner with the City because they can't write the Grant themselves. It is proposed that a parking lot would be on Belsay Road south of Sitka.

Mr. Spose inquired if they had someone that would walk the premises and recommend natural plants for the area.

Mr. Beath stated currently the path is brush hogged. He spoke with DNR and they will guide him on grass and trees. He also spoke with the MSU extension office and they are willing to make recommendations on trees and grass.

Mr. Spose asked if he had commitments from church people.

Ms. Miron wondered if a bike path was possible. We would have to commit to being a partner because the Grant has to be issued to a public entity, but they can collaborate with a non-profit. The City would have to show ownership or control.

Mr. Beath would like us to initially partner on fact finding. The question was asked about who would cover the match money.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR ACTION:

Moved by Miron and seconded by Spose to partner with New Testament to gather facts.
Motion carried 8-0.

The Commission was in consensus that future collaboration will be dependent on the fact finding. All voted unanimously yes.

POSSIBLE FALL ROAD RACE

Mr. Craig has a concern about needing a major sponsor for the road race. It would cost money up front and could be rough if weather is not ideal. He went to Baumans and got a schedule of races in the area and he is going to try to go to several races to see how they are run because he wants to make sure we know all the details and procedures for doing a race.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Vaughn Smith, 1311 Clairwood Drive, gave Mr. Craig a list of races put on by Race Services. He feels we need to work 6-9 months to get the word out and market the race. We will need shirts, medals and volunteers. We had over 70 volunteers for the Burton Memorial Day Race and had to schedule them. Getting a major sponsor makes it better. The Burton Memorial day race has ELGA. He feels it is important to make sure volunteers had something. Sponsors can range from \$50 to \$300 dollars. We need media sponsors. It has to be a brand of the City. Sponsors need to conceptualize where the money is going. Complete Runner is already on board. Bentley Florist has already agreed to purchase bibs.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR ACTION:

The Commission committed to doing the race. Mr. Craig, Ms. Miron, Ms. Moore and Mr. Smith will be the core group to work on the race.

TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL

The Committee is meeting Monday, September 17th at 6 p.m. So far we have collected \$240.00 in sponsorships.

FIRST TEE PROGRAM

Mr. Craig and Mrs. Bigsby are looking at partnering with IMA Brookwood to do a First Tee Program. The First Tee Program teaches children how to golf. Mr. Craig's son has been involved for a couple of years. Mr. Craig and Mrs. Bigsby will be meeting with them sometime in the next month.

SIGNAGE AND SECURITY CAMERAS

The Commission would like to see more visible signage at Kelly Lake. They would also like the park closed every night at 9:00 pm. We can't have people sleeping at the park at night. Mrs. Bigsby stated that this was a battle she planned on taking up at the beginning of the season next year. The Commission feels they want it started as soon as we can get signage.

The Commissioners want to check out the possibility of using security cameras at Kelly Lake. They would like to see us get bids on security cameras. There was discussion about Mrs. Bigsby going to Kiwanis to see if they still have money earmarked for a playscape and if they would redirect it to a pavilion at Kelly Lake.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

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