

CITY OF BURTON
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 06, 2013, 5:30 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mr. Heffner at 5:57 p.m.

Commission Member Betty Bigsby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heffner, Craig, Adams, Spose, and Miron.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bauldry, Dunsmore, Hildreth and Moore.

OTHERS PRESENT: B. Bigsby, Parks and Recreation Director, Liz Gillies, Chamber of Commerce, Lisa Easterwood, Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineering and M. Kimball, Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Discussion and possible recommendations regarding the following.

- 1. Public Hearing for a Revision to the 5 Year Parks & Recreation Plan.**
- 2. Guns & Hoses Event on August 25th.**

PRESENTATION:

Lisa Easterwood from Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineering spoke regarding the Kelly Lake project. She has brought in a flyer with examples of canopy structures that could go over the octagon.

Mr. Spose asked what the price difference would be between this canopy and the more traditional wood structure.

Ms. Easterwood said she would price these out. The canopies are very durable. It is pretty tried and true if MDOT allows this type of structure. The canopies come in a variety of colors and materials such as wood, metal and tarp structures.

Mr. Heffner asked if they have a structure that is made of heavy plastic.

Ms. Easterwood said that she would do some research on this. We have scheduled this public hearing today to give the public an opportunity to voice their opinion and suggestions about Settlement Park; however no one from the public is here for this meeting. I invited everyone to meet me at the site for a review. Mona Miron, Paul Hildreth, Betty Bigsby and I walked around on the site, looked at things and talked about different ideas that we could do. The site that the Parks and Recreation Commission agreed to focus on is 1 ½ acres with about 1.2 actual development area by the time you factor out the creek. There is a drainage ditch that runs along Thread Creek Blvd. This drainage ditch cuts across this property and empties into Thread Creek. There is a walkable grassy area that gives access across the ditch. There is not a drive access yet but it shouldn't be a problem putting one in.

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Mr. Heffner suggested filling the drainage ditch in with tile.

Ms. Easterwood said the whole site is within the 100 year FEMA floodplain. It is within the floodway, meaning land set aside to take on water during extreme events. It pretty much includes the entire site all the way to Tread Creek Blvd. You would have to apply for a permit to build any structures. In designing the structures can't prohibit the capacity for the volume the site has to hold water during the flood event. You can't put any structures on the land to take that away. A pavilion would not take that away because it is an open structure that water could pass through. It could be an issue if you were to put up a building on this land that water couldn't pass through. I am waiting for a call back, from the head of the engineering division of FEMA through DEQ, so that I can get an idea of what is truly permitted on this land as far as restrooms go. There is a sanitary sewer so it should be feasible to put in restrooms.

Mr. Spose suggested the bathroom be built above a concrete slab so that there is space between the bathroom floor and the concrete. The floors could be slotted so that they could be washed out with a hose and the water would drain out. We could plant a very slow growth rate grass that would only have to be mowed maybe once a year.

Ms. Easterwood said the Settlement Park could be considered a mini park, a neighborhood park or a special park. Mini parks and neighborhood parks are less than 5 acres and serve an area of a quarter to half mile radius. This park could be considered a special park if there is a canoe launch put in. I have brought a map of the Settlement Park area. I wanted to give you an idea of where this park is in relation to the surrounding neighborhoods. The major amenity of this park is the Thread Creek. The Drain Commission is trying to get jurisdiction of Thread Creek which would make this very navigable for canoeing and kayaking. The distance from the park to Thread Lake is about a 2.3 mile route along the creek. Heading south from the park down to Maple Rd. would be about 3 miles and from Maple Rd. down to the Rust Park in the City of Grand Blanc, would be 3.2 miles. Just a little south of Rust Park is Sanctuary Park. I checked the Grand Blanc Parks and Recreation Plan and they do not have any mention of creating any kind of canoe launch, or anything like that, on Thread Creek. That area of Thread Creek would include Atlas, City of Blanc, Grand Blanc Township, Burton and City of Flint. As far as I know their Park and Recreation Plan also went through the public input process and no one mentioned putting in a public canoe launch. It could be because as it sits it is not navigable. Once they get jurisdiction of it and it becomes navigable with people using it all the time, they could put in an amendment to their plan to do more.

Mr. Spose stated Flint is doing their 5 Year Master Plan for the City. He suggested partnering with them because they own some of the land that abuts the City of Burton's property.

Ms. Easterwood said the Drain Commissioner had a meeting with the City of Flint Mayor, Mayor Zelenko, Ed Kurtz and Nikki Hoffman over a month ago to talk about his intent to get jurisdiction of Thread Creek. There are two ways for The Drain Commissioner to get jurisdiction. One is through a special assessment and the other is to go through a special process under the Drain Act, which is the process he is taking. The next step was to send out a Notice of Intent and start that process.

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Ms. Easterwood stated further, you might see a noticeable progression in the next 6 months or so. The state has jurisdiction over the creek and DEQ expects people to submit a permit to clean the dead ashes out of their portion of Thread Creek. People don't want to do this and the Drain Commission gets many complaints about all the debris along the creek. This is his way of addressing the problem. Anyone can use Thread Creek but they are not supposed to cross public property to get to it.

Ms. Easterwood asked if the committee has any preference on where they would like the parking area. She said they will need to decide on a theme for the park. They could go with an educational or nostalgic theme, etc.

Mr. Heffner stated there is a spot under the big willow tree that does not flood. He said the parking lot should be at the bottom of the property and the culvert should be filled in for safety reasons. I think we should leave the top of the property for the kids play area. Once the Drain Commissioner gets jurisdiction of Thread Creek, and it gets cleaned out, maybe we can have a swimming area put in.

Mr. Spose suggested setting up a meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission's around our area. We could exchange ideas and network with them.

Ms. Easterwood thinks this would be a great idea; it could become a county wide meeting. I don't know why they don't do this. I think the Burton Parks & Recreation Commission is a lot more active than others I have come across. It could be that there just isn't an interest or they don't see the need for it. Joint collaboration on grants is very positively received by DNR. They want to see communities collaborating like that particularly when you're talking about trails or connecting parks. You will receive more points on your grant application this way.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: NONE.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: Mrs. Bigsby reported that the Kiwanis Club would like to put up a pavilion at Kelly Lake Park. They have hired E & L Construction and plan on starting construction August 26, 2013. The Pavilion will be on the island which is in between the parking lot and the road, behind the second row of trees and before the tall grass. This is where the electric is located. I think the pavilion will be 24 ft. x 30 ft. which is a little bigger than the one that is there. The construction company will be putting anchors in so that the picnic tables will be anchored right down to the cement. I have also received quotes for a 24 ft. x 20 ft. pavilion and a 24 ft. x 36 ft. pavilion. Kelly Lake is still closed due to the e-coli level. We will not open the park until the Health Department lets us know when our monthly levels are above 130. We have tried to post signs regarding the e-coli and someone keeps taking them down and throwing them in the trash. People continue to swim in the lake, so we have had to lock the gates.

Mr. Spose suggested they get estimates on a larger pavilion. He said it shouldn't cost any more money to build a 24 ft. x 32 ft. pavilion because of the increments of 4 ft. and 8 ft. for the material.

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Mrs. Bigsby said Elga Credit Union and the Fire Department are working to upgrade the Water Tower Park and Fire Station Park. The Burton Chamber cleaned up the trees and leaves at the Water Tower Park. The Water Tower Park has a beautiful flower planter that is filled with asphalt, dirt and weeds. If this were filled with good dirt, a garden could be planted.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

Liz Gillies from the Burton Chamber of Commerce stated everything's all set for the Gun's and Hose's Event. There will be two bounce houses; each team will get four slabs of ribs from Maxi Meats, Jesse Couch Band, DJ Dan, Volleyball, Horseshoes, face painting and petting zoo. Someone from the Police Dept. and Fire Dept. will take turns in the dunk tank, probably 20 minutes at a time. We will be charging \$7.00 admission for an individual and \$15.00 for a family. We will have a police car and fire truck on display for the kids to look at. We will have a vendor row. The Police and Fire department teams will have a rib cook off. The winner of this cook off will go up against the City Council team. We are trying to get three judges that are in the food business for this event. There will be a watermelon eating contest.

Mrs. Bigsby stated Parks and Recreation will do the food area. We will have hot dog and hamburg meals. We will also set up a booth in the vendor area with games for the kids to play. We have the duck pond game. I will have to order prizes for this. We need a sponsor for our petting zoo. The charge for this is \$150.00 for an hour. I would like to ask Burton Parks and Recreation Commission to set aside \$1000.00 upfront for startup money to purchase prizes, food, etc. We are in need of volunteers. If anyone knows of any students that need to complete community service work have them contact me.

Ms. Gillies said there is a \$35.00 charge for a business to set up a booth in the vendor area. They have to provide their own booth, tent or table. There will be a contest between the vendors with a prize for the best visual booth, etc. We would like the vendor booths to be interactive and fun, not just handing out flyers. We want the booths to draw people in. This event started as a Chamber fundraiser and then we incorporated Parks and Recreation. All of the money that comes in through admission charge will be split equally between Chamber of Commerce and Parks and Recreation. The money that this event raises will go towards putting on future events. We have ads running in the Burton View and on MLive and we are passing out flyers. We really need to advertise and spread the word.

Mrs. Bigsby spoke regarding the Memorial Day Parade. She said there are a few things we will need to do differently next year for example, the parade line up. The odd numbers should be on one side and the even numbers on the other side. We need to do a better job of closing off the parade because there were cars pulling out through the middle of the parade. The floats and vehicles that were throwing out candy didn't throw far enough because we had kids running into the street and around the vehicles to get the candy.

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Mr. Heffner suggested putting up some kind of markers and have people in golf carts lining both sides of the road with megaphones telling them to not cross that point. He said maybe we could use the saw horses that VFW used to use for their Christmas tree sale, at the intersection of Bristol and Center. We could paint them a bright color and print "do not cross" on them. Ms. Bigsby did a wonderful job of organizing the parade.

Mr. Craig has the sponsorship forms for the Veterans Honor Run. He said we still need volunteers for this event. We can sponsor as many mile markers as we want so we need to get as many as we can.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS AND/OR ACTION:

Craig moved and Spouse seconded the following motion:

To set aside \$1,000.00 for prizes and marketing materials for the Guns and Hoses Event on August 25, 2013.

Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.