



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: January 11, 2022

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center - 2960 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI

Members Present: Patricia Scribner, WCPARC President; Janis Bobrin, WCPARC Vice President; Robert Joerg; Robert Marans; Brenda McKinney; Ricky Jefferson; Jo Ann McCollum;

Members Absent: Dan Ezekiel, Sue Shink, and Evan Pratt

Staff Present: Coy Vaughn, Director; Meghan Bonfiglio, Deputy Director (attending remotely); Ginny Leikam, Superintendent of Park Planning and Natural Areas; Jason Brooks, Manager of Finance and Administration (attending remotely); Ann Ziolkowski (attending remotely); Jeff Dehring, Park Planner; Hannah Cooley, Management Analyst

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Scribner called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 14, 2021 regular meeting were included with the agenda material.

It was moved by Mr. Joerg and seconded by Ms. McKinney to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2021 regular meeting. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Ezekiel, Shink, Pratt), the motion was approved.

3. Public Comment

Jeff Sweeney, resident of Ann Arbor, spoke about the poor conditions and improvements needed at the Swift Run Dog Park. He said that he recently sent an e-mail to several Commissioners regarding his concerns and has yet to receive a response. Mr. Vaughn offered to meet with him sometime after the meeting and attempt to address his concerns. Ms. Scribner apologized for missing his e-mail.

Megan S, a patron at Meri Lou Murray Rec Center, voiced her concern regarding the lack of a mandatory mask policy at the facility. She stressed that she, and the others in her swim class, did not feel safe at the facility and pointed out that many facilities in the area had mask requirements.

4. Communications, Projects & Activities

Mr. Vaughn reported on the December communications which were included in the packet and provided a presentation summarizing the projects, programs, and events for the month.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney and seconded by Mr. Marans to accept and file the Communications, Projects & Activities for the month of December 2021, as submitted. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Ezekiel, Shink, Pratt), the motion was approved.

5. Financial & Recreation Reports – December 2021

A. Financial Reports

Mr. Brooks reported on the financials and stated that the total for the claims for the month of December was \$968,854.02.

It was moved by Ms. Bobrin and seconded by Ms. McCollum to accept and file the Financial Reports for the month of December 2021 as submitted. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Ezekiel, Shink, Pratt), the motion was approved.

B. Recreation Reports

Mr. Brooks reported on recreation reports for the month of December 2021 and highlighted the impact of the pandemic on the attendance of our park facilities.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Mr. Joerg to accept and file the Recreation Reports for the month of December 2021 as submitted. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Ezekiel, Shink, Pratt), the motion was approved.

6. Old Business

A. Best Asphalt Contract Change Order

Mr. Dehring presented a proposed change order for the project involving the parking lot and trail improvements at County Farm Park that are being constructed by Best Asphalt, Inc. He explained that the work began in September and progressed on schedule throughout the following weeks. However, unfavorable weather and unforeseen site conditions created several delays in getting these projects fully completed this fall. Outstanding work to be finished spring of 2022 include restoration grading, seeding, and the full reconstruction of pathway on Washtenaw Avenue.

Mr. Dehring explained that while work was underway on these projects, several unforeseen conditions were encountered. Within the existing County Farm/Administration parking lot, unsuitable soils were discovered under a large portion of the northern parking area. Therefore, these poor soils required removal, disposal off-site, and replacement with specified stone materials. Additionally, it was originally planned to retain the existing asphalt surfaces within all parking areas and install an overlay of new asphalt. However, due to significant deterioration, it was determined that all these materials should be removed and replaced to extend service life of the new products. While expansion of the Recreation Center parking lot was under way, staff requested that the entire facility's existing parking lot surface be seal coated and re-striped. Seal coating had not been performed in several years and given the facility was being closed for excavation work during a 24-hour period, it made sense to get this done now. The contractor executed this seal coating at an

additional \$11,500 unexpected expense to the contract. Furthermore, the driveway surface area adjacent to already scheduled work was in very poor condition and needed replacement to properly complete the project in this area. This was also added at an additional cost.

Mr. Dehring stated that the additional costs for all the above revisions and additions will be \$110,519.37 and are based on unit pricing that was competitively bid as part of the original contract. The improvements contribute to a better product for the Commission's investment and the new infrastructure should provide suitable service life performance for the next 20 to 25 years.

Mr. Vaughn complemented Mr. Dehring on his outstanding project management skills and pointed out that he has overseen countless projects on behalf of WCPARC. He noted that it is a rare occasion to see a change order on one of Mr. Dehring's projects. He added the proposed change order is warranted based on site conditions that were unforeseen.

It was moved by Ms. McKinney and seconded by Ms. Bobrin that the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission authorize Change Order No. 1 to Best Asphalt, Inc. for a \$110,519.37 increase and establish a new contract total of \$739,612.87. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Ezekiel, Shink, Pratt), the motion was approved.

B. Other Old Business

None.

7. New Business

A. Election of Officers

Mr. Marans stated that he was supportive of the current slate of officers and was in favor of electing them to another term. Ms. McKinney agreed that the current officers were doing an outstanding job and should continue. Mr. Joerg concurred.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. McKinney to elect the current slate of officers, including Patricia Scribner, President; Janis Bobrin, Vice President; Dan Ezekiel, Secretary; for another term. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Ezekiel, Shink, Pratt), the motion was approved.

B. NAPP – USDA ACEP Grant Application

Ms. Leikam presented an opportunity through The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) for grant funding. The matching grant funds are awarded up to 50% of the appraised fair market value of conservation easements on prime farmland up to a maximum of \$5,000.00 per acre. She explained that in September 2021, ALPAC identified several nominated properties as top priorities for preservation. The highest ranked properties were also considered for potential applications to grant programs for matching funds. ALPAC recommended applying for grant funds for the following three properties: Weidmayer in Freedom Township, DeForest in Salem Township, and Bristle in Freedom Township.

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. Bobrin to authorize Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission to apply for matching grant funds to the USDA-NRCS RCPP ACEP-ALE

program for the Weidmayer K #2, DeForest Salem, and Bristle properties. Roll call vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent (Ezekiel, Shink, Pratt), the motion was approved.

C. Other New Business

None.

8. Commissioners/Directors Comments

Mr. Vaughn provided an update regarding the recent fee increases at WCPARC facilities and noted the fee increase for existing membership categories would not take place until April 1st for MLM Recreation Center. He also noted that our facilities are increasing the minimum seasonal wages in an effort to become more competitive in the tight labor market. Mr. Marans agreed that hourly wage increases were merited. He encouraged staff to reach out to HCMA to compare wage rates for seasonal positions.

9. Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Marans and seconded by Ms. McCollum to adjourn the meeting. All ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.