

Approved: _____

**MEETING OF
February 02, 2012**

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR BOYNE CITY
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING HELD AT
6:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 02, 2012.**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chair Nichols at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Paul Nicholls, Carl Wehner, Bill Kuhn, Jerry Swift and Marie
Sheets

Absent: Mike Sheean (arrived at 6:58), Gail VanHorn and Lou Awodey

City Staff: Streets/Parks & Recreation Superintendent Andy Kovolski
Main Street Manager Hugh Conklin and Recording
Secretary Barb Brooks

**MEETING
ATTENDANCE**

Public Present: Two

****MOTION**

Nicholls moved, Wehner seconded, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY to
excuse the absence of VanHorn and Awodey.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES**

Wehner moved, Sheets seconded, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, a
motion to approve the December 20, 2011 meeting minutes as presented.

****MOTION**

**CITIZENS
COMMENTS**

Commissioner Tom Neidhamer addressed the board as a citizen
suggesting that the board look into possible improvements and
activities at Peninsula Beach to draw people as it seems to be an
underutilized park

NEW BUSINESS

Nicholls requested the board's consideration to address items 9 A - C
"New Business" first and then come back to item 6 and the remainder of
the agenda. The board agreed.

**Sunset Park
Improvements**

Representatives from the Main Street program expressed a desire to possibly add some improvements to Sunset Park to further enhance its beauty and encourage more use. Initial thoughts are strategically placed seating, plantings, low shrubs and meandering walkways. There is not a lot of money budgeted for improvements; however, if small improvements can be made toward a larger scheme, it is more manageable. If the board is interested, the Main Street Design Committee will further investigate layout plans and costs and bring a proposal back to the board for further discussion.

Board Discussion - The board asked about maintenance and being able to work around the underground storm water treatment filtration. They also asked that overall park signage/ map, a kayak launch/retrieval and passive activities are considered for this park and any future plans and that they review the waterfront master plan to make sure that they are staying consistent and not go against the plan. The general consensus was to have the Main Street Program continue to develop a plan Commissioner Neidhamer added that Peninsula Beach is a great location for more active activities and added that the parks board should be looking into and discussing dog parks and where one might belong as it came up during the City-wide goal setting as a discussion item.

**Invasives Species
Removal at Riverside
Park**

Representative Nancy Cunningham of Friends of the Boyne River requested on behalf of their organization permission to remove invasive plant species from the park. Invasive species are plants that are not native and if not addressed will take over an area and choke off and kill natural plant growth. A small group, led by experienced, knowledgeable experts will walk through, identify and remove these plants. After board discussion, the board decided that this was good idea and it will benefit the park area and Friends of the Boyne River coordinate this project with City staff and move forward.

**Proposed Nature Area
on the Boyne River
Bank on City Property
Adjacent to the
Industrial Park**

Nancy Cunningham, on behalf of the Friends of the Boyne River (FoBR) spoke to the board about creating a nature area on City Property abutting the Boyne River. The area being proposed is down near the river on City property with a boardwalk over the sensitive wetlands. It is not proposed as a trail, motorized or non-motorized. It is proposed as a stand alone project down near the river and not part of any future trail system that may be considered upland closer to the roadway at this time. The boardwalk will offer public access to the river and protect with still protecting the sensitive wetland. The FoBR had proposed a similar but more expansive project over a year ago and did not receive City Commission approval based on the project including a non-motorized trail upland, which would have limited the potential of

having a snowmobile trail as a possible future use. FoBR are excited about the proposed project and would like the blessing of the Parks & Recreation Board to present this to the City Commission for consideration.

Board Discussion - Will the Friends of the Boyne River take stewardship of the nature area? Ms. Cunningham stated that the nature area would remain the property of the City but the FoBR would maintain and care for the area. The board suggested that Ms. Cunningham review the minutes from the prior City Commission meeting so all of the concerns that were expressed then can be addressed at this meeting and provide as many supporting documents as possible (i.e. maps, photos, etc.) so the commission as all the information they need to make an informed decision. **Wehner moved, Nicholls seconded, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend the Friends of the Boyne River’s proposal to create a nature area on the bank of the Boyne River on City owned property adjacent to the Industrial Park.

****MOTION**

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Kovolski reported there has been a lot of activity at Avalanche when we had ice. The weather has not been cooperative to provide consistent skating availability. He informed the board that he is working on the budget, if anyone has anything specific that they would like considered, let him know as soon as possible. One item of consideration for the budget is to install new windows at the warming house for heating efficiency and the tree clearing that has been discussed will be budgeted.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Park Inspections

- Kuhn reported that he has been working at Avalanche and he has been amazed at how busy it is. He also shared some of the positive comments that he hears from the guests. Glens Market has been graciously assisting with hot chocolate supplies. There is no fee for the hot chocolate, just optional donations being collected. There will be a pizza party for the kids towards the end of the season using the donations being collected.
- Both Main Street Manager Conklin and board member Kuhn stated that the portable ice rink in Sunset Park has not been very successful. It has been difficult to maintain the ice due to the weather and most people still prefer to utilize Avalanche where there is the warming house, restrooms and equipment available.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(Sheean arrived at 6:58 - forgot that the meeting time had been changed from 7 to 6 p.m. for the year. Also brought to staff's attention that there was an article in the local newspaper giving the wrong time date & time for the board meetings)

Boyne City/Charlevoix Rd. Trail Update

Sheean reported that the funding drive for the shortfall is going well and anticipates receiving more than what is actually needed; any remaining funds will be set aside for phase two of the trail.

Boyne City to Boyne Falls Trail Update

Sheean reported the committee is continuing to work and meet regularly. They are working with the State of Michigan on a few property ownership issues. They will continue to work with property owner and review and consider all options as they move forward.

Avalanche Trail Signage update

Kovolski reported that he had not contacted Cindy Mom but would prior to the next board meeting.

Board Member Status - Lou Awodey

Board member Awodey has expressed an interest in continuing his service on the board; however, he is willing to submit his resignation if that was in the best interest of the board. He will be back in the spring through the summer and does not know yet what his plans will be for next winter.

Board Discussion - It was suggested that as we are half way through the winter season, leave things as they are and revisit the issue next fall if it is necessary. Kuhn stated that if we have new people wanting to serve on the board and can make the year around commitment, we should not be turning them away to keep someone on that cannot attend meetings all year around. The board chose not to take any action at this time.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The February 2, 2012 meeting of the Parks and Recreation board was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Barb Brooks, Recording Secretary