



Approved:

**Meeting of
February 13, 2020**

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE **REGULAR BOYNE CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING** HELD AT 5:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Sheean at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Mike Sheean, Tom Smith, Heather Huffstutler, Greg Vadnais, Lisa Alexander, and Hugh Conklin

Meeting Attendance

Absent: Sterling and Weick

City Staff: city manager Michael Cain, DPW director Tim Faas and recording secretary Barb Brooks

Public Present: four (4)

**Excused Absences
MOTION

Alexander moved, Conklin seconded, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY to excuse the absence(s) of Sterling and Weick

**Approval of Minutes
MOTION

Conklin moved, Smith seconded, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY a motion approving the January 9, 2020 minutes as corrected (corrections were on who made / seconded the motions for approving minutes and absences)

**Citizens Comments
(on non-agenda items)**

Don Lockman shared input and had questions regarding some of the components of the Recreation Master Plan such as the marina expansion, the baseball fields and limited access to fishing from shore. He also added that the City should consider placing some "Thin Ice" signs around the marina where it is bubbled. His main message was to keep the locals in mind, especially the kids, when considering plans for our parks and recreation. They should come first. Lockman had 3 pages of notes that he provided the board over these concerns and a few others (attached to these minutes).

Director's Report

Faas provided a written report.

Correspondence

None

**Reports of Officers,
Boards, and Standing
Committees**

Park Inspection Reports – None

User Groups – Alexander had questions for staff regarding the status of the some of the projects for the baseball & softball fields and broached the idea of charging fees for the use of our various fields. Faas provided answers for all of the questions and said he would investigate what other communities charge and what a fee structure might look like.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

**Waterworks Park
Conceptual Plan**

Faas reviewed with the board a concept that was introduced by commissioner Conklin regarding Waterworks Park. Faas stated that he has reviewed the concept giving consideration to the road that is being proposed as a new entrance to Avalanche and it appears it is compatible. Conklin added that he did not want the focus to turn towards possible improvements to the road that may or may not ever get built. The concept is about a creating accessible walkways to the pavilion and around the park. He pursued the plan so the next time there is potential funding opportunities for a small project, this would be ready to go.

**Capital Project Plan
Review**

Faas went over the Capital Projects Plan that was included in the agenda packet with the board. Board feedback was to make smaller improvements to the Rivermouth Restrooms if it is not going to be totally remodeled this year and adding the Waterworks proposed improvements to the Plan. **Alexander moved, Huffstutler seconded, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** to add improvements for walkways and landscaping at Waterworks Park to the Capital Projects Plan.

Adjournment

The February 13, 2020 regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

All board members present went to the City Commission Chambers to review the proposed plans for the Open Space and base of Avalanche presented by Tim Knutsen of Becket & Raeder

Barb Brooks, Recording Secretary

Parks and Recreation Meeting Feb. 22, 2020

Don Lockman, 226 North Street, Boyne City – Lifelong B.C. resident – 18 Years on B.C. Parks and Rec, - 9-10 years as chairman.

First, I would like to congratulate you on the document on our Boyne City park system. It is both impressive and comprehensive. However, there are a few things that bother me contained within it. I would like to address two of these.

When it talks about the Boyne City Little League, it states that it is headquartered at Rotary Park. It mentions that the field on the water is used for tournaments. I wonder if this was done on purpose to fit the rumor around town that the city wants to move the Little League field on the lake. It could then be used for other purposes.

With the doubling of the size of the marina + and the construction of a three story, block long apartment building with retail stores across from Veteran's Park, much parking will be needed. I do not want to see The Little League field become a parking lot.

A year ago in January, I asked the Planning Commission, at their meeting, if the Little League field would be taken out. They assured me that that would never happen because of the flack they would get from the locals. I asked how many parking spots would be needed when the marina expansion is done. They did not know how many would be required.

There is much history involving the Little League field. Basically, a wetland was filled in from the lakeside now, to the back of the new city hall .My dad donated thousands of yards of fill sand from his pit He was one of the locals who built first Litzenger field and then the present field on the lake. He was the President of the League for the first fifteen years. Names like Boutilier, Becker, Grimm. Bates and Laurie do not mean anything to new people in town. They were just some of the men who built the fields. Those locals in their late sixties are watching their grandkids and great- grandkids play on the same field they played on. They have posted several pictures on Facebook of early teams and some of the early "stars"

have commented back and forth. I remember my dad saying that the Little League had a ninety- nine year lease from the city to use the field.

The second thing that bothered me about the report is that there was very little mention of fishing at the lakefront. Most of the places that kids and adults without a boat have fished are gone or soon will be gone.

Part of this is the allowing of erosion control plants to be put in from Café Sante all the way to the mouth of the river. There are several signs advertising the nurseries that put in the plots. **Twelve inches** was left between the plants and the cement wall behind the rocks. This area was previously used for salmon fishing in the fall and steelhead fishing in the spring. Many families would bring lawn chairs to fish here—no more!

Going north is the so-called “shoppers” dock. I was on the Parks & Rec Commission, as it was called at the time, when the city went into an agreement with a now defunct boat tour company. The company put in the first dock with the idea that people could fish on the side toward the river mouth and off the end when the tour boat was gone. Boats were allowed to tie up on the north side of the “**fishing pier**” as it was designated. Then a couple of years ago, the city took down the “no boats” sign at the end of the dock and installed cleats to tie to.....**this needs to be changed back the way it was.**

To me it is worth far more to have our town kids fish off the best place on the dock than to have 2-3 boaters park and buy fudge or ice cream cones downtown. Put our kids first.

When the rest of the new marina docks are put in, the rest of the fishing area will be lost from the harbor masters office to the point behind the Little League field. There are plans to moor sailboats all the way to the end of that point. Many locals and visitors use this area for fishing. At least moor the sailboats out far enough to still allow fishing. I worked thirty four summers as a State Park Officer at Young State Park. I have personally sent hundreds of families down to fish this area.

There is a **liability situation** at the area north of the new docks now. There should be signs put up warning of thin ice created by the bubblers at the most northern dock. Access to the lake in the winter will be gone when the new docks are put in. Boyne City was known internationally for its city on ice (Smeltania) and now lake access in the winter will be impossible.

I have always thought that our parks should be managed for the local people's interest first----then the visitors. Your report states that the city's cost for doubling + the size of the docks will be at least one million dollars. Spending that much money for something that will benefit 50-60 boaters should be put to the vote of the taxpayers of Boyne City. There are places where money is needed to solve local problems. For example, many residents on the north side of town, such as the Vogel Street, Jefferson Street and Hanna Street areas have constant problems with water in their basements. Maybe some infrastructure changes could help with their situations. I met one lady who has a back- up sump pump to a back- up sump pump to her main pump to avoid damage to her house. I met another couple who had just spent sixteen thousand dollars to water proof their basement on Hanna Street. Another idea that needs attention is the extension of sewer and water to homes in the city. There is a perception (right or wrong) in town that most things are done to attract visitors to town for business reasons.

In conclusion, please work to protect and improve the Little League Park on the lake and please address the lakefront fishing issues.

Thank you,

Don Lockman