

Approved: _____

**MEETING OF
APRIL 11, 2013**

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, APRIL 11, 2013.**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Jerry Swift, Heath Meeder, Marie Sheets, Darryl Parish and Bill Kuhn

**MEETING
ATTENDANCE**

Absent: Gail Van Horn and Mike Sheean (Sheean participated in the discussion via teleconference)

City Staff: City Manager Michael Cain, Streets/Parks & Recreation Superintendent Andy Kovolski and Recording Secretary Barb Brooks

Public Present: One

**EXCUSED ABSENCES
MOTION**

Kuhn moved, Meeder seconded PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, a motion to excuse Gail VanHorn from the February 7, 2013 Meeting, Daryl Parish from the March 28, 2013 special meeting and Darryl Parish and Jerry Swift from the April 7, 2013 meeting.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES
MOTION**

Kuhn moved, Meeder seconded, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, a motion to approve the:

- February 7, 2013 meeting minutes as presented
- March 26, 2013 special meeting minutes as presented
- March 28, 2013 special meeting minutes as corrected (Sheean to be noted as absent but participating in the discussion via teleconference)

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Parks will open up shortly; Veterans Park is generally the first as soon as the weather breaks. Park and trail clean up will continue at Riverside Park.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Park Inspections

- Kuhn reported he has noticed some of the rocks along the riverbank in Old City Park are no longer on the bank but in the river. This is most likely due to individuals climbing on or over the rocks while fishing, accidentally knocking them loose. Kuhn also noted that he found a piece of trim from the Gazebo down by the river and offered to fix it.
- Meeder brought to the boards' attention that there are quite a few downed branches on the walking trail at Avalanche. Some of them are sizeable and/or dangerous. Swift asked if citizens were allowed to cut these branches and remove them when they come across them on the trails. Kovolski indicated that was not a good idea and citizens should contact staff to have the problem addressed. The board also questioned whether the tree clearing project on the face of Avalanche was going to happen this spring as it didn't get taken care of last fall. Kovolski stated that he would be in contact with the guys from the tree removal service.
- Sheets reported that in conjunction with Buff Up Boyne, she has organized a clean-up of Riverside Park. She is working with the school to get student volunteers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2013/14 FY Budget

The Parks and Recreation budget was included in the agenda packet. Kovolski indicated that the City Commission adopted the budget as presented at their commission meeting on Tuesday.

Avalanche Trail Signage update
MOTION

The committee has been working with the police department, Andy and the Wood Shop to finalize the verbiage that will be placed on the signs. The board felt that they did not need to further review the sign proposal for the minor changes that may take place. **Meeder moved, Swift Seconded, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** for the signage committee to move forward and work with staff on a recommendation of the proposed signage to present to the City Commission for consideration and implementation.

Dog Park

VanHorn was not present to give any update on the proposed dog park. Kovolski stated that hopefully the committee can meet and get things back on track.

Boyne City/Charlevoix Rd. Trail Update

Sheean reported that the trail has gone from a 3 phase plan to a 5 phase plan due to funding. The shortened version of phase 2 will start in Charlevoix and go to approximate Quarterline Rd. where the Little Traverse Nature Conservancy owns land that could be used as a trail

head. Phase 1 of the project, Boyne City to Park of the Pines is behind schedule due to paperwork from the County to the residents along the trail were not sent in a timely manner and will now make fall construction highly unlikely.

Boyne City to Boyne Falls Trail Update

Sheean reported that there isn't anything new on the forefront. The committee continues to persevere and remain optimistic.

Board Member Recruitment

Brooks reported there is still one vacancy on the board (the remainder of Low Awodey's term). There are currently two applications on file. One from Jason Biskner and Jo Bowman. Ms. Bowman attended the February board meeting to get a feel for the board and then turned in an application. After reviewing Ms. Bowman's application, it was revealed that she did not have one full year of residency at the time; however she will have in May (according to her voter registration card). Mr. Biskner's application has been reviewed by the board on other occasions and the board was concerned that his passion might not be parks & rec. as he indicated an interest in serving on other boards. Brooks stated that Mr. Biskner did mark several boards that he had an interest in but they were not in any priority order of first and last choice. Brooks also stated that in recruiting a new board member the board should consider attendance availability so we do not continue to have issues with ensuring a quorum to hold meetings. The board requested that Brooks contact the two potential board members and invite them to the next meeting. Kuhn stated that he thought he had another potential board member who is a young adult and has an interest in disc golf.

NEW BUSINESS

Horse Trail Ride Services at Avalanche Request

Boyne Valley Equine Tours and Services, LLC is requesting permission to utilize Avalanche to provide horse trail rides to the public. Business owner Mr. Don Cowell stated they are looking at charging a fee of \$35 and \$5 of the fee would be donated back to the City for Parks and Recreation. The rides would be offered 6 days a week on an on call appointment basis with three to eight people riding at one time. There could potentially be several rides on any given day or none if there is no demand. The trail being proposed is mostly all flat land and is not part of the walking or biking trail. There are a few locations that it runs close to or crosses the path of the disc golf. A separate trail would not have to be cut although some tree trimming and pruning would be necessary. Mr. Cowell also stated the placing woodchips on the path may help with compaction and he would be happy to participate in having it done.

Board and Staff discussion:

- Concern was expressed regarding a business using a City Park

for profit. It was discussed that this happens more often than anyone realizes. Some events are non-profit and sometimes non-profits will bring in other vendors to their even that are for profit. Examples given were; Mushroom Festival carnival, arts and craft vendors, farmers market, organized bike ride events, food vendors, etc. Also, some of the groups we look at as non-profits are not non-profits under the 501c3 of the Federal Government. For profit proposals should be looked at on a case by case basis and not give a blanket approval.

- Kovolski stated that he has conferred with his parks supervisor Keith Hausler and they are open to giving it a try as long the City can pull the plug at anytime if there are problems that can't be resolved.
- There was quite a bit of discussion regarding concerns over potential conflicts with the disc golf users, stray discs, etc. and the need for more substantial separation. Kuhn stated that his experience with the disc golf users are that they are generally always courteous to other trail users; letting walkers pass and waiting for the area to clear before throwing. He expects this would be the case with horseback riders. Mr. Cowell stated that would go both ways, they would expect to be courteous to the disc golfers on their rides, such as if they see golfers taking off, give them ample time to get ahead before they start their trail ride, waiting at the tees, watching at crossings, etc. Mr. Cowell invited the board to take a ride along the proposed trail so there could be more informed discussions about the possible conflicts and impacts. Some of the board members were very interested and it was suggested that the invitation be extended to the City Commission. Saturday, April 20 at noon.
- Trail cleanup was a concern - Mr. Cowell understood the expectation of keeping the trail clean and stated they have no problems going back to clean up after each trail ride.
- City Manager Cain added that unless the board feels there are some really solid reasons to prevent this proposal, we may want to consider continue to explore it, try it and see how it goes instead of saying no out of fear of the unknown. Adjustments can be made along the way to address issues and if we find it can't be worked out, we pull the plug. The board needs to weigh the opportunity and the concerns to decide if the concerns are great enough to prevent the opportunity. Cain also referred to the Avalanche Master Plan where horseback riding had been discussed but ultimately was not listed as either an acceptable or unacceptable trail activity. The plan simply does not address this subject either way.
- There were further discussions about the possibility of starting

the rides at the 1910 Building and if any other public or private locations have been considered. Also giving opportunities for the local children to ride for free.

No action was taken and the item will be placed on the May agenda for further discussion.

4-H Swim School
program Support
Request

****MOTION**

Kovolski went over the request by the 4-H swim school board. He stated that the board has supported this cause in previous years and there was money ear marked in the budget. The board feels that with being a lakefront community it is important for the kids to learn to swim. **Kuhn moved, Meeder seconded, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**, to recommend the Boyne City Parks and Recreation monetarily contributes to the 4-H Swim School program.

Outdoor Board Meeting
Schedule May - October

Each year the Parks & Recreation board meets at various parks to hold their board meetings. Locations are as follows:

- May - Avalanche (outside or warming house in case of bad weather)
- June - Rotary Park
- July - Veterans Park
- August - Old City Park
- September Riverside Park
- October - TBA

In case of inclement weather, the meetings will be moved back to City Hall with the exception of May.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at Avalanche.

ADJOURNMENT
****MOTION**

The April 11, 2013 meeting of the Parks and Recreation board was adjourned at 7:24 p.m. Moved by Swift, seconded by Kuhn, **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Barb Brooks, Recording Secretary