



Approved:

**MEETING OF
FEBRUARY 4, 2016**

**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 4, 2016.**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Mike Sheean, Jerry Swift, Jo Bowman, Patrick Patoka and Marie Sheets

Absent: Darryl Parish and Heath Meeder

**MEETING
ATTENDANCE**

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

Public Present: Twelve

****MOTION**

Swift moved, Bowman seconded, **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** to excuse the absences of Meeder and Parish.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES **MOTION**

Sheets moved, Patoka seconded, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, a motion approving the January 7, 2016 meeting minutes as presented.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS
(on non-agenda items)**

None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kovolski reported the warming house is open at Avalanche and there is enough snow for sledding but ice rink is struggling due to the lack of consistently cold temperature. Staff will continue working on it.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

**REPORTS OF
OFFICERS, BOARDS
AND STANDING
COMMITTEES**

Park Inspection Reports -

- **Disc Golf Update** - The course is being used throughout the winter. The projects that had been discussed earlier are being put on hold until spring.
- **Trail(s) Update** (Board Chair Sheean) - bid for Phase I of Boyne City Charlevoix Trail came back slightly higher than hoped but within a range that the project will continue to move forward. Phase II plans are being prepared for bidding.

**UNFINIHSED
BUSINESS**

**Avalanche Mountain
Bike Trail Proposal**

Steve Schnell representing the Top of Michigan Mountain Bike Association (TOMMBA) presented a new sustainable trail option plan as proposed by the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA). Schnell explained that a sustainable trail has three aspects; Physical that

looks at erosion and other deteriorating characteristics, Social which includes how busy the park is and proximity to town, restaurants, etc. and Managerial which addresses access and maintenance issues. Professionals from IMBA came and surveyed the conditions at Avalanche to come up with a plan to build additional trails in a sustainable way that protects the integrity of Avalanche's natural resources, controls erosion and low maintenance; all while making the it a premier destination for riders. IMBA representatives were not only impressed with Avalanche but overwhelmed at everything Avalanche has to offer. The trails will include beginner, intermediate and advanced (black diamond) levels. They will also be clearly identified with signage. The trails will be built by qualified professionals and will utilize volunteers. The project will be at no cost to the City, however TOMMBA may seek grant opportunities that may require the City to be the applicant. Steve added that Avalanche has the potential to be known on more than a local basis; he believes that it will become a popular Midwest destination.

Board Discussion – The board inquired if there were any trails in the area that are comparable and how visible the trails would be. Schnell stated that there really aren't any trails that would be comparable...Avalanche is pretty unique with its terrain, topography and proximity to downtown. He added that the trails are proposed to be fairly narrow with some vegetation coverage. The path will be visible to the rider but not so much to other users. Users may see the cyclist on the path but the path itself will be pretty inconspicuous. On the map the lines look fairly close but with the topography the paths could actually be on opposite sides of a ridge. Board members also asked if the proposed trails crossed any existing trails and what is the estimated timeline. Schnell said the timeline is really based on fund-raising efforts and the proposed trails would add three additional crossings or the other paths. City Commissioner Conklin asked if the use of horses at Avalanche had been discussed as part of this plan. Schnell expressed concerns over this use and stated that horse traffic can cause a lot of damage to a trail. The general consensus of the board was there isn't a lot of people riding up there but maybe the subject needs to be revisited. Lastly the board asked Schnell what was going to happen to the current path. Schnell stated that originally there were plans to cease use of the trail after the new ones were installed; however, a lot of the past and regular users would like to see it stay. The plan for now is address the problem areas of the current trail and then monitor how much use it actually gets once the new trails are installed. Kovolski expressed concerns about taking a vote on this with two board members absent. Schnell offered to contact the board members, go over the plan and see if they had any concerns. **Swift moved, Sheets seconded, PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend City Commission review the plan and consider approval as presented.

****MOTION**

Avalanche Inventory and Management Plan

The board discussed the Avalanche Resource Inventory and Management Plan that was presented at the January meeting by Richard Deuelle. The plan identifies the natural resources that can be found and discusses options to preserve, care for and improve those resources. The general consensus of the plan was that it is was very well done and will make a great reference tool when discussing and making decisions about Avalanche in the future. **Bowman moved, Swift seconded PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** to recommend review and adoption by the City Commission.

****MOTION**

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2016/17 Budget

Kovolski distributed an overview of the proposed budget for board discussion. Swift inquired as to budgeted funds for Riverside Park. Kovolski indicated that funds are budgeted and listed under Capital Outlay which is the line item for projects. Citizens Comments – The question was raised as to if the board was going to see a more detailed budget of projects and have input on where the money is allocated. Several board members concurred that they would like to see that. Kovolski stated he could provide more detail at the March meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Chair Sheean asked Kovolski if he would like to host the March meeting at the new DPW facility. The general consensus of the board was that it was a good idea. The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 6 pm at the DPW facility on Robinson St.

ADJOURNMENT

The February 4, 2016 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Barb Brooks, Recording Secretary