

**JANUARY 12, 2016  
REGULAR MEETING**

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR BOYNE CITY COMMISSION MEETING DULY CALLED AND HELD AT BOYNE CITY HALL, 319 NORTH LAKE STREET, ON TUESDAY JANUARY 12, 2016

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Neidhamer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Present: Mayor Tom Neidhamer, Mayor Pro Tem Gene Towne, Commissioners Ron Grunch, Laura Sansom and Hugh Conklin

Absent: None

Staff: Cindy Grice, Michael Cain, Lori Meeder, Scott McPherson, Mark Fowler, Andy Kovolski, Kevin Spate, Jeff Gaither, Debra Chavez, Patrick Kilkenny and City Attorney Jim Murray

Others: There were 3 citizens in attendance including a representative from the Petoskey News Review

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**CONSENT AGENDA  
MOTION**

2016-01-001  
Moved by Conklin  
Second by Sansom

2016-01-001A  
To approve of the December 8, 2015 City Commission regular meeting minutes as presented  
2016-01-001B  
To approve I of the December 23, 2015 City Commission regular meeting minutes as presented  
A2016-01-001C  
To approve of the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board to appoint Darryl Parrish to serve on the Parks and Recreation Board for a four year term expiring December, 2019

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 0  
Motion carried

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**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter from Haggards Plumbing in support of the recent PILOT approval was received and filed.

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**CITY MANAGERS REPORT**

City Manager Cain's reported:

- Five candidates were recently interviewed for the DPW position.
- Bid documents for the new city facilities will be released soon. Bids are due on February 12, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.
- The foundation of the building shell has been removed from the open space site.

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

Draft Minutes of the December 1, 2015 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting, the December 3, 2015 Main Street Meeting; the December 3, 2015 Parks & Recreation Board Meeting; the December 16, 2015 Special Main Street

Meeting; the December 21, 2015 Planning Commission Meeting and the December 21, 2015, Historical Commission Meeting were received and filed.

**Redevelopment Liquor License for Stiggs Brewing Company**

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Consideration to approve a resolution recommending the application for a redevelopment on-premise Class C License for Stiggs Brewing Company to be located at 112 South Park Street, Boyne City, MI pursuant to Public Act 501 of 2006 and issued under MCL 436.1521 a(1)(b).

Main Street Director Lori Meeder discussed the microbrewery that Stiggs Brewing Company will operate at 112 S. Park Street, slated to open in the Spring of 2016. The City of Boyne City has been asked to consider to allow them to purchase a redevelopment on-premise Class C liquor license for the new restaurant and brewery. The City can recommend issuance of new liquor licenses for dining, entertainment or recreation businesses located within the downtown development district with very specific guidelines as defined by PA 501 of 2006 under the MCL 436.1521a (1)(b). Licenses may be issued only to businesses within the Boyne City Downtown Development Authority. The license will not be transferred under this act to another location, should the licensee go out of business. The local unit of government may approve another applicant within the district to replace a licensee who has surrendered the license to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. There is no cost to the city for this license. All expenses are the responsibility of the Applicant. The cost of the license is \$20,000. The Main Street approved a recommendation to the City Commission for consideration of this application.

Staff Comments: None

Citizens Comments: None

Board Discussion: All are in full support of the recommendation.

**MOTION**

2016-01-002  
 Moved by Grunch  
 Second by Towne

To approve a resolution recommending the application for a redevelopment on-premise Class C License for Stiggs Brewing Company to be located at 112 South Park Street, Boyne City, MI pursuant to Public Act 501 of 2006 and issued under MCL 436.1521 a(1)(b).

Ayes: 5  
 Nays: 0  
 Absent: 0  
 Motion carried

**MParks Building Healthy Communities Grant**

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Consideration to approve the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board and City Staff to apply for a Building Healthy Communities Grant from MParks and authorize the City Manager and City Clerk / Treasurer to sign the required documents

Public Works Superintendent Andy Kovolski discussed the recommendation from Parks & Recreation to apply for a Building Healthy Communities grant thru MParks. This grant would promote more physical

activity in the younger and older adult/senior age groups. There are no matching funds required for this grant.

Staff Comments: None

Citizens Comments: None

Board Discussion: Commissioner Conklin said it's hard to say no to good health and the project being subsidized. Commission Samson said she is in support of a healthy lifestyle and inquired about the commitment to maintenance after the project is complete. City Manager Cain said there is no obligation to the City to continue this after the first year. Commissioner Grunch inquired if there would be staff time involved and was informed, very minimal. There is admin oversight expected, tho. Commissioner Grunch, Mayor Pro-Tem Towne and Mayor Neidhamer are in support of the request.

#### **MOTION**

2016-01-003

Moved by Towne

Second by Sansom

To approve the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Board and City Staff to apply for a Building Healthy Communities Grant from MParks and authorize the City Manager and City Clerk / Treasurer to sign the required documents

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Motion carried

#### **Walkabout Sculpture Grant**

Approve the request of the Main Street Design Committee to submit a grant application to Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (and allow us to apply for other grant opportunities that may present themselves that would fit the mission of our project and funder) on behalf of the City and authorize the City Manager to sign the necessary documents

Main Street Director Lori Meeder discussed the Walkabout Sculpture Tour. It is a year-long outdoor exhibit that showcases sculptures created by Michigan Artists. The pieces, installed in June 2015 are placed throughout our downtown district and public parks for citizens and visitors to interact with and enjoy. All works of art will remain on display for one year with new works to be installed in June of 2016. The goal within the next 4 years is to grow the exhibit to 10 – 12 pieces each year. The pieces are all available for sale to the public and Main Street receives a 10% commission on all sales. Fundraising for 2016 is now taking place. We are preparing a mini grant application for \$3,000 to help with this year's cost. We pay the artists a stipend for travel and installation, produce a printed brochure and ballot, have a gala reception, an artist's luncheon, plaques and bases. In addition, Main Street is requesting permission to apply for various grants that may present themselves throughout the project that may range from \$1,000 to \$25,000 to accomplish the goal.

Staff Comments: City Manager Cain said staff is in full support.

Citizens Comments: None

Board discussion: Commissioner Sansom said she is very much in support, it is an asset and she is glad we are continuing the project. Commissioner Conklin asked who decides the art that is selected and was informed it is a juried group decision. All other Commissioners are in full support.

**MOTION**

2016-01-004

Moved by Conklin

Second by Towne

To approve the request of the Main Street Design Committee to submit a grant application to Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (and allow us to apply for other grant opportunities that may present themselves that would fit the mission of our project and funder) on behalf of the City and authorize the City Manager to sign the necessary documents

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Motion carried

**Leadership Charlevoix  
County Community  
Service Project**

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Consideration to approve the concept proposal for the Born Learning Trail and allow the Leadership Charlevoix County group to move forward with the project proposal and work with City Staff on the design and implementation details

Barb Brooks, Liane Hagerman, Kim MacNaughton, Jennifer McAndrew of the Leadership Charlevoix County (LCC) class discussed the 2016 project the LCC has chosen. They are partnering with Char-Em for their Community Service Project. The class has disseminated into three groups to install "Born Learning Trails" in Boyne City, Charlevoix and East Jordan. The trail will be an educational walking trail with built in activities towards early childhood education. The whole idea is get parents or guardians to engage in the activities with the children. Sites have been considered and vetted. LCC feels Rotary Park is the most ideal location. This will be the first Born Learning Trail in northern Michigan. The project will be completely portable. The benefit of early childhood usage was discussed. The project was geared to Rotary Park because of the natural sensory and people using the park regularly. There will be press releases from LCC educating the community.

Staff Comments: City Manager Cain added he agrees with the Rotary Park placement suggestion. He sees the draw of nature, restrooms and the water fountain.

Citizens Comments: None

Board Discussion. Mayor Pro-Tem Towne thinks this is a great project and he is willing to have it at Rotary Park on a trial basis. Commissioner Sansom said anything that promotes early childhood development is worth it and she would like to try it with the condition it is movable if necessary. Commissioner Conklin inquired of the expectation of the City for maintenance and was informed United Way will partner to maintain the

project. Commissioner Grunch is in support. Mayor Neidhamer said he wants the project to be successful.

**MOTION**

2016-01-005  
 Moved by Conklin  
 Second by Towne

To approve the concept proposal for the Born Learning Trail and allow the Leadership Charlevoix County group to move forward with the project proposal and work with City Staff on the design and implementation details

Ayes: 5  
 Nays: 0  
 Absent: 0  
 Motion carried

**Aspen Tree Removal**


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Consideration to approve a proposal from Crandall Logging to remove the Aspen trees around the perimeter fence at the Wastewater Plant in the amount of \$3,500 and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents.

Water / Wastewater Superintendent Mark Fowler proposed the Aspen trees around the perimeter fence at the Wastewater Plant be cut back approximately 100 feet from the fence. The Aspens are about 80 to 100 feet tall, reaching the end of their life span. Every time we have a wind storm, another tree comes down on the fence. Three logging companies have been contacted. Only one provided a quote and that was Crandall Logging in the amount of \$3,500 to cut down the trees and remove them from the site.

Staff Comments: None

Citizens Comments: None

Board Discussion: Commissioner Grunch supports the recommendation. We have spent that much in fence repairs. Mayor Pro-Tem Towne agrees. Commissioner Conklin supports the recommendation. It is consistent with the environment assessment and the trees have created a dangerous situation. Commissioner Sansom said this will change the look of the area. She requested we replant trees as well.

**MOTION**

2016-01-006  
 Moved by Towne  
 Second by Grunch

To approve a proposal from Crandall Logging to remove the Aspen trees around the perimeter fence at the Wastewater Plant in the amount of \$3,500 and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents.

Ayes: 5  
 Nays: 0  
 Absent: 0  
 Motion carried

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## Non-Union Employee Vacation Schedule

Consideration to authorize the changes to section 5.17 of the City's personnel policy as proposed.

City Manager Cain discussed the general vacation schedule for non-union full time City employees is covered by section 5.17 of the City's personnel policy. Over the years in hiring management level employees, the City has deviated from this schedule, always with the formal approval of the City Commission. This was necessary to be competitive in our ability to hire qualified and quality employees who, while new to the City team, had developed careers elsewhere before coming to work for us. Over the years, this has created some discrepancies among our non-union employees. It provided for less time off for our non-union employees than for unionized employees who have over 16 years of service. The proposed change is as follows.

1. Since we have no dispatchers that that portion of the table be deleted.
2. That the table be revised to read:
 

16 years	21 days
18 years	22 days
20 years	23 days
22 years	24 days
24 years	25 days
3. That the vacation schedule of all current Department Heads be increased to four weeks as of their most recent anniversary once they had three years of service or based on the revised table in 2 above, whichever is greater.
4. All other non-union employees would be eligible for time under the revised vacation table on their next anniversary.

These changes provide better consistency between Department Heads and high seniority City Employees.

Staff Comments: None

Citizens Comments: None

Board Discussion: All are in agreement with the recommendation.

### MOTION

2016-01-007  
 Moved by Grunch  
 Second by Sansom

To approve to authorize the changes to section 5.17 of the City's personnel policy as proposed

Ayes: 5  
 Nays: 0  
 Absent: 0  
 Motion carried

### Museum Moving Recommendation

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Review the recommendation and information presented, provide staff any

interim direction while postponing the matter for final consideration after the project bids are received.

City Manager Cain discussed the recommendation from the Historical Commission regarding the packing and storage of the artifacts from the Museum until the new facility is done. This appears to be a work in progress. Over the past few weeks, Commissioner Sansom, coordinating with Michele Hewitt has been carefully logging and packing museum artifacts for the upcoming move. Research is also being done on possible locations and ways to move the materials. Until the bids for the facilities construction are known, I am hesitant about committing any funds for any non-critical components of the project. While it is important that all the museum artifacts are moved and stored safely, City Manager Cain added that he believes there are multiple options before us and with the work Commissioner Sansom is doing, we will be in a position to deal with them quickly and with better information after the project bids are in. No specific money has been budgeted for this or most elements of the move.

Michele Hewitt said she has spoken with the Charlevoix Historic Society regarding storage. We don't have a permanent location yet. Air quality provides a big role in storage. Humidity is the biggest issue. We are hoping to keep the collection together. Kecia Freed added the biggest concern are the fragile artifacts and getting them packed properly.

Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Sansom said she has taken extreme care with every single piece and will continue on. The costs to move them are extreme. Commissioner Grunch said kudos to Commissioner Sansom for her hard work. Mayor Pro-Tem Towne also thanked Commissioner Sansom. Commissioner Conklin said he appreciates Commissioner Sansom's efforts. It doesn't appear that there was a lot of planning. Is there a strategic plan? It seems like more people need to be involved. People need to come together and make a real effort. The problem is not going to go away. Mayor Neidhamer said we need forward movement. City Manager Cain said there are a lot of issues to decide as we move forward. How do we take the museum from where it's at to a new level?

## **Ann Arbor to Traverse City Rail Plan**

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Consideration to providing a letter of support to the Bay Area Transportation Authority and the Groundwork Center for Resilient Community's Service Delivery and New Technology for a grant application for the northern Michigan passenger rail study and allow Groundwork to list the City of Boyne City as a supporter on the project website.

Main Street Director Lori Meeder discussed the initiative to re-establish passenger rail service between Ann Arbor and Traverse City. It would solidify Michigan as a leader in a new era of modern trail travel while boosting economic development along the corridor. The corridor represents an opportunity to use an existing railroad to provide additional transportation options for Michigan travelers, including many of the 2 million annual visitors to Northern Michigan. After a series of public forums around the state, Michigan residents identified Traverse City as the No. 1 destination for trial travel. In addition, the state included this project as a long term priority in its 2011 State Rail Plan that will also include a sub route to Petoskey, through Boyne Falls.

The Groundwork Center for Resilient Community Service Delivery and New Technology has been working with citizens and public officials to build local and legislative support for a 2016 passenger rail feasibility study to determine what resources are needed to bring back the rail connection between Traverse City and Ann Arbor. Groundwork believes that bringing passenger rail service back to northern Michigan is possible in less than a decade with a focused campaign of public engagement, technical analysis, and adequate support from a cross section of community, state and federal agencies. The first step is the preliminary feasibility analysis. Groundwork will be applying for a grant to fund this study and is requesting letters of support from local organizations that would benefit directly or indirectly from this initiative. The Boyne City Main Street board has approved to provide a letter of support.

Staff Comments: None

Citizens Comments: None

Board Discussion: All are in agreement with the recommendation and think it's a great idea with a possible great impact on the area.

#### **MOTION**

2016-01-008

Moved by Towne

Second by Sansom

To approve to provide a letter of support to the Bay Area Transportation Authority and the Groundwork Center for Resilient Community's Service Delivery and New Technology for a grant application for the northern Michigan passenger rail study and allow Groundwork to list the City of Boyne City as a supporter on the project website

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Motion carried

#### **City Commission Retreat**

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Discussion of this matter, along with any additional information staff can provide at the meeting, and provide staff direction on how it wishes to pursue this matter at this time, if at all.

City Manager Cain discussed the possible Commission Retreat suggested by Commissioner Conklin back in December. Lew Bender, a regular presenter to public groups will be available for a facilitated session with the City Commission. This would be a good use of the City Commission's time and resources.

Staff Comments: None

Citizens Comments: None

Board Discussion: All Commissioners fully support the idea and agree that March would be a good time to hold the retreat following the Goal Setting session.

**MOTION**

2016-01-009  
Moved by Grunch  
Second by Conklin

To authorize staff to set up a City Commission retreat for March 7, 2016 contracting with Lew Bender at a cost of \$2,000 plus travel expenses

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 0  
Motion carried

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

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Mayor Pro-Tem Towne thanked everyone for their well wishes for his wife Kathy. Commissioner Sansom discussed the changes in the business cards.

**ADJOURNMENT**  
**MOTION**

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Motion by Mayor Neidhamer seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Towne to adjourn the regular City Commission meeting of Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 9:20 p.m.

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Tom Neidhamer  
Mayor

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Cindy Grice  
Clerk / Treasurer