

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF ST. CLAIR SHORES
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
January 12, 2023**

PRESENT:

Lillian Bate
Doug Damm
Christine Harris
April Heier
Gerrit Ketelhut
Brian Loridon

ABSENT:

John Jonassen
Shawn Nicholson
Mayor Walby

ALSO PRESENT:

Henry Bowman

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Ayla Klein

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING DECEMBER 8, 2022

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mr. Damm to approve the December 8, 2022 meeting minutes.

AYES:	All
NAYES:	None
ABSENT:	Jonassen, Nicholson, Mayor Walby

DIRECTORS REPORT

Brys Park Playground

Mr. Bowman said the Brys Park playground should be going in next week. We have it moved to the front of the park. It will be nice and convenient.

Aqua Freeze Fest

Mr. Bowman said the Aqua Freeze Fest is this weekend at Blossom Heath. We will have food trucks, ice sculptures, entertainment. On Saturday, we will have our first fire and ice tower with an 8 ft. tall ice chimney and they will light it on fire.

Mr. Bowman said the new picnic tables have been ordered. We will be replacing tables that need to be replaced and spreading others to other areas.

Mr. Bowman said the Senior Center will have a disc golf course to introduce seniors to disc golf. We had such a success with pickleball. We haven't had anyone doing shuffleboard here so we are starting a shuffleboard league. The Senior Center has increased by 400 members this last year. He thinks we have 1,400 members total.

Mr. Bowman said we are looking to add one weekend day in the Senior Center fitness room if we can get the help. We've had requests to open on Saturday, so we are thinking about trying to have it open on Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm or 10 am to 4 pm.

NEW BUSINESS - None

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bowman said we have Dawn as the Kyte Monroe Concession Stand Manager again and we are going to make sure that we don't run out of food by 11 am.

Mr. Loridon asked if we will be getting the Square so purchases can be made with credit cards.

Mr. Bowman said yes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Athletics – Programs, Facilities, Group

Soccer – Christine Harris

Mrs. Harris said they are starting registrations later this month until mid-March and they will start practices in May.

Baseball – John Jonassen and Brian Loridon

Mr. Loridon said their registrations are open. They are moving registrations up and closing them up earlier this year. They are expecting another good turnout. They would like to have more kids, but their biggest issue is not having enough fields. If they want more kids, they will need more fields. We have quite a bit of fields, but Lac Ste Clair and St. Clair Shores Baseball share the fields.

Co-ed and Women's Softball – Lillian Bate

Mrs. Bate said she would like to get together with Henry to see what we can come up with because she thinks we can get teams back.

Horseshoe Club – Lillian Bate

Mrs. Bate said the Horseshoe Club starts in March.

Hockey and Figure Skating – Shawn Nicholson

Lakefront Parks & Aquatics Facilities

Lac Sainte Claire Harbor, Pool, Aquatics – Doug Damm, Chairman

Mr. Bowman said the new slide has been delivered. They're going to start doing footings for it coming up before the end of this month then the slide will go in. We will marcite the pool and we will be getting a pool cover. We are starting swim lessons back up this season.

Blossom Heath Park and Wahby Park – Lillian Bate

Mrs. Bate said the park is beautiful.

Mr. Bowman mentioned that all the lights will come down after Sunday. The Tunnel of Lights will be closing down.

Veteran's Memorial Park – Christine Harris

Mrs. Harris said she has not been in the park, but she will go inside once the weather breaks. She still sees people walking the path there.

Neighborhood parks – April Heier

Mrs. Heier said Welsh Park looks awesome. She asked if there are any thoughts of doing work on the baseball diamonds at Brys Park. She did buy the level and they would loan it to us.

Mr. Loridon said he knows they asked for different peg (regarding the Brys Park back diamond) so they can use it for their league, but the younger kids can't use it because of the distance. Seniors can use the back diamond, but not the younger kids.

Recreation and Instruction Programs

Senior Liaison – Lil Bate

Mrs. Bate said she didn't get a chance to talk to Matt, but she assumes it is going well since we got 400 more members.

Special Needs Program –

Mr. Bowman said the Frosted Formal Dance is at the end of the month so they are getting ready for that.

Mr. Bowman mentioned that the Daddy Daughter Dance is on February 19th.

Mr. Bowman said the Frosted Formal Dance will be at Encore on 9 Mile Rd. and the Daddy Daughter Dance will be at Blossom Heath Inn.

Mr. Loridon said that his baseball team (15-year-olds) is looking for volunteer work.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - None

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mrs. Bate brought up the water tower at the golf course and there was a short discussion on that.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mr. Damm to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

[THE PRECEDING MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF A PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING AND DO NOT REPRESENT A VERBATIM RECORD]