

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF ST. CLAIR SHORES
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
March 9, 2023**

PRESENT:

Lillian Bate
Doug Damm
Brian Loridon
Shawn Nicholson
Mayor Walby

ABSENT:

Christine Harris
April Heier
John Jonassen
Gerrit Ketelhut

ALSO PRESENT:

Henry Bowman

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Ayla Klein

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:24 p.m. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING JANUARY 12, 2023

Motion by Mayor Walby seconded by Mr. Nicholson to approve the January 12, 2023 meeting minutes

AYES: All
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Harris, Heier, Jonassen, Ketelhut

DIRECTORS REPORT

Mr. Bowman said we have the St. Patty's Day in the Park this Saturday. It's a fundraiser for our Hockey Association. We are busy working with our new City Manager on our budget. We have a new family member, Rob's wife Shelly had the baby and they are at the hospital right now. He said to make sure to congratulate them.

Mr. Bowman said we are doing a lot with sponsorships. Extra Credit Union signed up to sponsor the kids entertainment at the Farmers Markets.

Mr. Bowman said Freestar signed up to sponsor a movie. Michigan United Credit Union will sponsor cooking shows at the Farmers Markets for the year. They will also get involved with the movies too.

Mr. Lordon mentioned that Badalamenti-Ferlito Orthodontics would like to get involved and do more with the city.

Mr. Bowman said TIFA has installed two gas power fireplaces at Blossom Heath Park. The wood that will go in them is on back order so right now we have lava rocks. We will still be using the portable wood fire pits.

Mr. Nicholson asked if they are dredging at Lac Ste Clair.

Mr. Bowman said the dredging at Lac Ste Clair is a go and they will start dredging there.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bowman said we are reapplying for the Spark Grant for the miracle field. We are also applying for the bathrooms here at Civic Arena.

Mr. Lordon said he spoke with someone who asked what is the point of putting the miracle field where there is already a field and do you feel we will get good use of it there.

Mayor Walby mentioned that it can be used by other groups for other activities, such as kick ball.

Mr. Bowman mentioned that veterans can also use it.

Mr. Nicholson said he talked to Rob about our park passes only being a paper card.

Mr. Bowman said we are still doing the paper passes this year and we are looking to doing electronic passes in the future.

Mayor Walby mentioned that it's been talked about with Council, but it's a matter of cost for the residents.

Mayor Walby said we will have the fence and arm at Blossom Heath. It is getting tougher to get into the parks.

Mr. Nicholson asked if there will still only be one person working at Blossom Heath.

Mr. Bowman said we will have a second person on duty at Blossom Heath.

Mayor Walby said the pool passes have been totally updated and improved. That is where we put in a whole new system.

Mr. Nicholson asked if we can do that for park passes if it works out well for the pool passes.

Mr. Bowman said that we are looking into it.

Mayor Walby added that it was easier to start with the pool passes.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bowman said we will be doing improvements at the Kyte Monroe concession stands.

Mayor Walby asked if we are updated and improved to accept credit cards.

Mr. Bowman said yes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Athletics – Programs, Facilities, Group

Soccer – Christine Harris

Baseball – John Jonassen and Brian Loridon

Mr. Loridon said Lac Ste Clair is doing well. They shortened up registration, so they are more prepared. As of Monday, they have 514 kids and will probably have 600. They are doing very well. With other organizations like Harper Woods, Eastpointe, Roseville, and parts of Clinton Twp. closing they gained more kids.

Co-ed and Women's Softball – Lillian Bate

Mr. Bowman said we are publicizing leagues.

Ms. Bate said March is a little late and it should've been done in January or February since it starts in May.

Horseshoe Club – Lillian Bate

Ms. Bate said they are going to start in May. They will have a state doubles tournament. They do a really good job.

Hockey and Figure Skating – Shawn Nicholson

Mr. Nicholson said we have state tournament coming in the end of April. He said the states hockey tournament is this weekend.

Mayor Walby asked if the parking lot is full during the Silver Sticks Tournament.

Mr. Nicholson said there are a handful of times in the year that they fill the parking lot, but he doesn't ever remember there not being parking spots.

Lakefront Parks & Aquatics Facilities

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

Mr. Damm said it was previously discussed. Everything is all good.

Blossom Heath Park and Wahby Park – Lillian Bate

Ms. Bate said she misses the (Christmas) lights.

Veteran's Memorial Park – Christine Harris

Neighborhood parks – April Heier

Recreation and Instruction Programs

Senior Liaison – Lil Bate

Ms. Bate said she took some more puzzles to the Senior Center. She said they have 400 new members.

Mayor Walby said Henry got the nets out and ready because they will be starting pickle ball soon.

Special Needs Program

Mr. Bowman said we are getting ready for our summer camp program.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - None

OPEN DISCUSSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Nicholson, seconded by Mayor Walby to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

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