



*Parks and Recreation enhances community and quality of life through people, parks, and programs.
Senior Center Network makes longer lives, better lives.*

**Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 2020, 5:30 p.m.
Commission Chambers, Second Floor, Governmental Center
400 Boardman Avenue, Traverse City, Michigan 49684
MINUTES**

A. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:33 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Alisa Korn, David Grams, Steve Largent, Rodetta Harrand, Whitney Waara, Andy Marek, and Jalen Provo

Commissioners Excused: Betsy Coffia, Shirley Zerafa

Others Present: Kristine Erickson, Parks and Recreation Director; Ryan Walsh, Parks and Recreation Office Manager; Lori Wells, Senior Center Network Manager; Steve Lagerquist, Land Steward, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy; Rod Kivell, Chair, Business Development Team of the Parks and Recreation Commission; Tawny Hammand, and Tree Sturman, The River Outfitters; Mark Polanko, Marlin Designs

D. First Public Comment

There was no public comment.

E. Approval of/Additions to Agenda

MOTION by Marek, second by Largent, to remove item J.1., Request to Renew Agreement for Resource Management Services at Natural Education Reserve and Medalie Park, and to add Coronavirus Discussion under New Business as Item J.2. Motion carried.

F. Special Orders of Business/Presentations

1. Proposed Trail at Maple Bay Park and Natural Area

Steve Lagerquist, Land Steward for the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, which manages Maple Park and Natural Area for Parks and Recreation, presented a plan to create a full-loop foot-traffic trail with a sustainable design at Maple Bay Park and Natural Area, and requested written approval to do so.

MOTION by Largent, second by Provo, to approve the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy's request to construct a trail at Maple Bay Park and Natural Area, and for staff to prepare a letter permitting construction. Motion carried.

G. Consent Calendar

Receive and File

1. Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network Department Report
2. Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network Financial Report
3. Johnson to Parks E-mail about Maple Bay Barn
4. Uhlinger to Parks E-mail about Use of Medalie Park
5. Medalie Park Legal Opinion of Park Rules

Approvals

1. Draft Minutes from February 13, 2020 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
MOTION by Marek, second by Harrand, to receive and file the consent calendar, with the exception of Item 5. Motion carried.

H. Items Removed from Consent Calendar

1. Item 5. Medalie Park Legal Opinion of Park Rules
Commissioner Provo asked how requests by businesses to use Medalie Park would be handled relative to the legal opinion. Commissioner Korn responded to Provo's request.
MOTION by Korn, second by Provo, to receive and file Item 5 of the consent calendar. Motion carried.

I. Reports

1. Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Department Report
Parks and Recreation Director and Senior Center Manager provided additional information to supplement the written department report in the Consent Calendar.
Senior Center Manager announced that the Senior Expo, scheduled to be held at the Civic Center's Howe Arena on May 20, 2020, was cancelled by the Bay Area Senior Advocates due to Coronavirus concerns.
2. Committee and Representative Reports
Business Development Team Chair provided an update about the March meeting of the team. He explained the team continued to discuss requests from commercial paddling entities other than the Parks and Recreation Commission's current paddling vendor, River Outfitters to use Medalie Park during summer 2020. The team also discussed requests to use Jack's Landing along the Boardman River at the Natural Education Reserve. (Note: The legal opinion provided in the meeting packet as Item 5 on the Consent Calendar was not provided to the Parks Department until after this meeting.) Chair stated the team discussed installing signs at the Natural Education Reserve and Medalie Park stating that commercial businesses other than those in an agreement with County Parks and Recreation to conduct business, is not permitted in the parks under the County Parks and Recreation Commission's Park Rules.
There were no other committee reports.

J. New Business

1. ~~Request to Renew Agreement for Resource Management Services at Natural Education Reserve and Medalie Park~~
2. Coronavirus Discussion
Parks and Recreation staff reported that measures were being taking to address the Coronavirus concerns relative to facility rentals, overall park operations, and safety within the parks.

K. Old Business

1. Allocation of Funds from Cell Tower Amendments and Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer
The Director reported on unbudgeted revenues received as a result of two cell tower land lease amendments and the Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer agreement. She requested input from the commission about how to use funds. Discussion resulted in matter being referred to Business Development Team for consideration and future recommendation to the full board.
2. Vendor Selection and Funding Request: Connecting Walkway between Civic Center Path and Front Street at Civic Center Park

MOTION by Grams, second by Marek, to authorize Director to award bid to Molon Escavating, Inc., for constructing connector at the northwest corner of the Civic Center Park, in the amount of \$14,105.85. Motion carried.

L. Second Public Comment

There was no public comment.

M. Notices and Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Korn stated she attended a meeting with community leaders to discuss a proposal to have cruise ships visit Traverse City. She stated the proposal was denied. She also reported on recent fires at Medalie Park that destroyed two garbage receptacles.

Walsh addressed some recent concerns brought up to the Parks Department about having too many department staff attend Parks and Recreation-related meetings. He explained that such attendance benefits the department because it engages staff and keeps them up to date on park matters. He explained that staff participation is not a requirement, but staff attend to help support the goals of the commission and department.

Commissioner Grams stated that the fence along the northwest corner of the Civic Center should be removed for the connector construction project, and repurposed for use on the east side of the park along Fair Street.

Director stated she is working closely with the vendor to lead the master site planning project at the Civic Center, Beckett and Raeder, and that the goal is to have surveys finished and focus groups scheduled by early April.

N. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.