

MINUTES
City of Alpena Planning Commission
Joint Meeting with Recreation Advisory Board
November 10, 2020
Alpena, Michigan

CALL TO ORDER:

The joint meeting of the Planning Commission and Recreation Board was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Paul Sabourin, Planning Commission Chair and 7:02 p.m. by Dave Kuznicki, Recreation Advisory Board Chair.

ROLL CALL: PLANNING COMMISSION

PRESENT: Kirschner, Gilmore, Boboltz, Wojda, Sabourin, Bauer (Virtual Attendance)

ABSENT: VanWagoner

ROLL CALL: RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

PRESENT: Kuznicki, Dowd, (Virtual Attendance)
Cupples (In Person)

ABSENT: Heath

STAFF: Don Gilmet (Building Official), Rich Sullenger (City Engineer) Andrea Kares (Director of Planning & Development), Cassie Stone (Recording Secretary).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF PC MINUTES:

Sabourin requested the term “elected” be changed to “appointed” by the Mayor on October 13, 2020. Minutes approved as amended.

BUSINESS:

Review Recreation Plan

Kares stated that the current City of Alpena Master Recreation Plan covers the years 2016-2020. This plan is required to be updated every five years if the City wishes to be eligible to apply for grants through the DNR. Due to this, the updated master recreation plan needs to be submitted to the DNR no later than February 1, 2021. In the coming months a notice will need to be sent out to alert any applicable parties of a 30 day comment period, as well as a public meeting and hearing will need to be held. Additionally, an approval from both the Planning Commission and City Council will need to be received before submitting the final plan to the

DNR. Kares added that at this time staff would greatly appreciate any comments from the Planning Commission as well as the Recreation Advisory Board regarding the draft updated chapter 1 of the current plan specifically the current goals and objectives in chapter 5. Are those current goals relative, have they been completed or are there any new goals that should be added? Comments are also requested on the recreation inventory plan found in chapter 4 as it pertains to available amenities. Staff would like to thank both the Planning Commission and the Recreation Advisory Board for their time and feedback.

Members comments discussed were as follows:

Kuznicki mentioned the lights along the bike path on Washington Avenue, from about Campbell Street to the Cemetery is very dark. Sullenger stated that there might be a voluntary effort in the works to get a portion of that done. City would provide materials with hopefully the labor would be provided at no cost. Dowd suggested type of lighting that doesn't contribute to excess light pollution.

Nico Tucker, from NEMCOG, stated that the main part that is needed from the plan right now to get an updated draft plan is from chapter 5 goals and objectives. Boboltz spent some time going over the plan and asked how to proceed with the plan. Tucker explained that NEMCOG will be actually writing the plan so right now he is looking for feedback after reviewing the goals and objectives. In the parks section Tucker added that he needs to know if something has already been done or is a high priority goal or has it changed?

After some discussion regarding Mich-e-ke-wis from Boboltz, Tucker advised that since a plan has just been completed regarding Mich-e-ke-wis Park, just remove all the goals out of the Rec Plan and just put a goal to continue to update and implement aspects of the Mich-e-ke-wis Park Plan. There is no need to have 2 different documents that might end up conflicting each other.

Bauer felt that the population segment in chapter 1 is very weak. Tucker stated that much of that does not need to be included in the plan and a statement could be put in there to refer to the Master Plan for more details.

Sullenger stated that any comments that come from after this meeting can either be emailed or dropped off to City Hall, to get forwarded onto Tucker so they can get incorporated into the next draft. Tucker noted that comments would need to be received within the next few weeks. Since it is required to have a 30 day public comment period. If a draft plan can be put together within the next week or two the plan could get posted for the 30 day period. The plan can still be changed later on by amending it.

Sullenger noted that the budgeted amount of \$50,000 for renovation to the pier at Blair Street Park will not even touch what it will cost so those projects have to have amounts adjusted.

Tucker asked Sullenger if newer aerial images would need to be updated. Sullenger stated yes, if the change was significant. Tucker also requested some pictures from the Splash pad in which Sullenger stated we do have those saved and can have Shannon email them to Tucker.

Kares added again to either drop off paper copies of comments to City Hall in the next week or two or email them to her or Tucker. Sullenger added for the Recreation Board to get their comments to Cassie.

Dowd mentioned some comments on the bike path and resurfacing and if there was anything new in the works to be done. Dowd added he will type up some more detailed questions and get them to us at a later time. Tucker stated that it might be a good idea to add a goal to develop some signage to designate parts of the bike path and add mileage. Tucker also suggested taking a look at chapter 4 and see if there are any other features and amenities at some of the parks that are missing.

Motion made by Dowd, seconded by Cupples to approve the 2021 Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Schedule.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m. by Kares, Planning & Development Director and Kuznicki, Recreation Advisory Board Chair.


Secretary