

City of Manistee
Parks and Beautification Commission
Minutes
Thursday, July 17, 2014
5:00 P.M

Members Present: Mark Tomaszewski, Roger Zielinski, Lynn Vasquez, Erin Pontiac, Jeff Mikula

Excused: Ed Tegler, Kathie Boyle

Also Present: Laura Heintzelman from Manistee County Community Foundation

A regular meeting of the Manistee Parks and Beautification Commission was held on Thursday, July 17, 2014 at City Hall 2nd floor Conference room. Meeting was called to order by Chair Lynn Vasquez at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – Motion by Vasquez, **second** by Zielinski to accept June 19, 2014 minutes and place on file. Motion **approved**. Approved with corrections noted.

Correspondence: Memo from Denise Blakeslee from Planning & Zoning Department of the City of Manistee. Recommendation letter was attached.

Old Business:

Morton Park –There are about 30 years left on the lease with Morton Salt.

Tree planting: A concept of a “forever forest”. A place to plant trees to remember people who have passed on; a location was mentioned behind Lighthouse Park. Have benches and walkways of woodchips throughout “forest”. Commission would like to have project started by the fall of 2014. Zielinski to help Tegler with “idea draft” for open space.

Dog Park: Vasquez spoke with David from Morton Salt and they are in support of having a Dog Park at Morton Park.

New Business:

Community Foundation: Heintzelman spoke to commission about the foundation and their products/services. Discussed options for a fund for adopt a park program.

*Campaign – 2% fee with a \$500 annual deposit minimum

*Endowment – 1% or less fee with minimum balance of \$5000 (4% spending flex option)

Heintzelman will get back to us if we can do a Campaign fund with “sub-account” for each park to allow the \$500 min. cover all the parks as a whole.

Will have an advisory body to the fund and will always have the option to put the donated money towards a specific item/location.

Database of Recreational Areas: Discussed what the county is working on to develop a county wide regional park and recreation plan. Added what that would include in the Manistee city limits.

Round a Bout at 1st St. Beach: Discussed recommendation ideas. Main idea is to have Art institute to get involved with a sculpture idea.

5th Ave.: City has \$25,000 funds for improvements. Discussions were had for ideas. Engineers are drafting plans for sidewalks and cabanas.

Bylaws Review: will be done at next meeting

Update from Mikula: Adopt a Park has had three applications come in for Butterfly garden, the River walk, and Morton Park. Improvements have been done on Hamlin field, the River walk, the softball field lights, Lighthouse park bathrooms, and Sands Park tennis courts.

Motion by Vasquez, **second** by Tomaszewski to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. **Approved** by all.

Next meeting date – Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall – 2nd Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Pontiac