

**CITY OF BIG RAPIDS
PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
APPROVED MINUTES
October 13, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Richard Spedowske at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Richard Spedowske, Megan Eppley, Mark Brejcha, Deb Chipman,
Karen Simmon

Absent: Richard Spedowske, Caryn Schonert, Stacy Pedigo

Other: Heather Bowman, Park & Recreation Director
Paula Weipert, Board Secretary

MINUTES:

Motion by Megan Eppley, seconded by Mark Brejcha to approve the August 11, 2016 minutes as presented. Motion Passed.

Motion by Jason Kostecki, seconded by Mark Brejcha to approve the September 8, 2016 minutes as amended. Motion Passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Dog Park:

Thomas Bratus, visitor and patron of the Brutus Dog Park, addressed the Board with a request to make a change to the Rules for the park. He spoke on the need to require that all dogs be spayed or neutered before being allowed to enter the park. He passed out a copy of a letter that he received from local Veterinarian, Wendell Weber, DVM. The Board also received a picture of a Rules Sign in Lowell and in Ann Arbor.

Mr. Bratus spoke of some incidents that had happened while he and his dog were at the park. His dog sustained some injuries from a few different altercations with other dogs. He felt the dogs were being aggressive and had they been neutered, these incidents would not have happened.

He also spoke of other incidents that he has witnessed, one being patrons who bring more than 2 dogs and have trouble controlling them. He would also like a restriction to be in place indicating no more than 2 dogs per handler allowed.

If changes in the park rules are approved, he would like to see a sign posted on the entrance doors to the enclosures speaking of the spayed/neuter policy.

Megan Eppley spoke on the need to revisit the rules in general. Mark Brejcha spoke on rewriting the rules and bringing them to a future meeting for approval. Deb Chipman spoke on a rule regarding unattended children not being allowed within the enclosed areas.

Heather made plans to meet in the near future at the Dog Park with Mr. Bratus and some of the Board members that will be able to attend. Heather, Mark Brejcha, Megan Eppley, Karen Simmon and Mr. Bratus will meet at the Dog Park on October 20th at 4:00 to discuss possible rule changes.

Disc Golf:

Mark Gifford spoke to the Board regarding a problem with trees being removed from the park without permission. This problem is being looked into. The new tee pads are being poured.

Win Kellum Update:

Mark Gifford gave an update on the dugouts. Marv Bowman is laying the blocks and all hopes are that it will be done soon. He spoke on Alex Manga, from Ferris Club raising money to purchase clay to be put down on the field. There are plans for 60 ton of red clay to be purchased from a place in New Jersey.

Security Cameras:

Mark Gifford reported on the number of cameras that have been installed throughout the city and parks system. There are currently 110 cameras throughout. There are plans to put one at the Dog Park. Hopes are for a live stream camera there.

Playscape Inspection:

A copy of the inspection report from Leathers is in all Board member packets. The work that needs to be done, will be requested as a CIP for next year. There will need to be a full replacement at some time in the future. The need for a “Friends of Playscape” group to form again to raise the funds to rebuild will be very important as it could cost around \$250,000 to fully replace Playscape.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Copies of current and upcoming Special Events are included in the Board packets.

STAFF REPORTS: Recreation

Pool update:

The partial remarcite job is complete. The pool has been drained and is officially closed. Pat has forwarned about the need to remarcite the remainder of the pool. The cost could be around \$200,000. The General Fund subsidizes the pool for \$110,000 per year. The Mayor has asked for ideas on how to generate revenue. Staff has been working on this request.

Mark Gifford spoke on the discussions that Heather and he have had in regards to improvements within the parks. They would like to see a splash pad, skate park and possibly another Dog Park. This one would be at Northend Riverside Park.

Mark Brejcha spoke on the need to make sure that we're conservative and careful. We need to make sure that we can take care of what we have and also take care of what we add. Doesn't want us to bite off more than we can chew.

He would like to see the bus stop style shelter added at the Dog Park as has been talked about in the past. The idea fell by the wayside and he would like to see the discussions start back up again. Maybe this is something they can talk about at the meeting on the 20th at the Dog Park.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/BUSINESS:

None.

UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS:

None.

The next meeting of the Park and Recreation Board will be November 10, 2016 at 6:30 pm in the City Commission Room.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Weipert