

**Minutes  
Village of Elk Rapids  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
July 8, 2021**

Present:

Charlie Pryde, Ryan Paxon, Melissa West, Paula Moyer, James Dake

Excused: Gordon Stewart, Mike Conrad

Staff: Village Manager Brian Gruesbeck

West calls meeting to order

**Motion** to approve agenda by Pryde. Second by Moyer.

**Motion Carried**

**Motion** to approve last meeting minutes by Pryde. Second by Paxon.

**Motion Carried**

**Citizen Comments:** n/a

**New Business:**

Tree donation from Green ER - discussed placement of a native tree sapling in Memorial Park with a plaque and fence. Moyer and Pryde will work with Royce Ragland to determine exact location.

**Motion** by Pryde to accept the tree donation from Green ER to be planted in Memorial Park. Second by Moyer.

**Motion Carried**

Nakwema Update – the Nakwema Trail is moving forward as discussion with various governmental agencies continues. A meeting is planned with Julie Clark and trail stakeholders and another with Antrim County Parks and Recreation to discuss next steps.

Norte Update – Slow roll bicycle program has begun, meeting at the Harbor Pavilion at 6:00 pm on Thursdays and ending at Ethanology. Village Market has requested a bike rack be placed in the parking lot.

Request for staff support person – West requested a staff support person from the Village office to be appointed to the Commission to aide in communication.

**Gruesbeck**, Village Manager volunteered to be the point person.

Swim lessons in lake – Discussed open water swim lessons. A decision was made to move forward to obtain a water safety course for the Village. An open water lifeguard is not needed but an open water certified instructor is required. West will reach out to potential teachers, the Harbor Commission and the Chamber. Pryde will research to see if open water lessons are offered in other lake communities and discuss a potential partnership with Shaun Quinn and his rental booth at Memorial Park. Dake will reach out to local summer camps. **Gruesbeck** will research insurance and liability issues

River shore in Memorial Park – Discussed ideas to protect trees and native plants on the river shoreline from the library bridge to Lake Michigan. A meeting will be held with Royce Ragland from Green ER.

Trail Town – discussed the Trail Alliance group’s application to the DNR, as part of the Pure Michigan Campaign, for Elk Rapids to be designated as a Trail Town. The Alliance is asking for letters of support from community groups to include with the application. Moyer volunteered to write the letter and forward to the Trail Alliance group.

**Motion** by Pryde to send a letter of support for the Trail Town designation from the Parks and Recreation Commission. Second by Dake.

**Motion Carried**

#### **Unfinished Business:**

Swing into Summer event – discussed a new name for the September 18 event. West will reach out to the Event Planner with suggestions from the Commission and invite her to the August Commission meeting.

Budget discussion – discussed budget money that still needs to be spent, items to purchase and items that need to be repaired. West will invite Marcus Evans, DPW Superintendent, to attend the August Commission meeting to discuss options. Commission members were asked to bring 3 ideas to use the remaining funds to the August meeting.

Ames street property – discussed placing floating docks at the Ames St. property by Riverwalk Grill. It was decided that the Commission will contact Riverwalk, the Harbor Commission and the DDA to determine if they would support the docks be put in place in 2022.

Correspondence - Lewis and Susie Cooper, owners of the Elk Rapids Marina, have offered to host the skating rink on their Marina property. Discussed using Commission equipment at the site. Discussion will continue at the next Commission meeting.

Council Report – Pryde reported the Council’s Strategic Goals and Objectives will apply to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The information will be included in packets given to each Commission member. The Village Council voted to increase new boater fees from \$25 to \$100 which would put boaters on the reservation list for the season. The Council also voted to

oppose the proposal that would not allow local governments to regulate the Short Term Rentals in their area.

Next meeting Thursday August 5 at 7:00 pm at Government Center.

**Motion** by Moyer to Adjourn. Second by Dake. Meeting adjourned.