

**Minutes
Village of Elk Rapids
Parks and Recreation Commission
September 2, 2021**

Present:

Charlie Pryde, Gordon Stewart, Melissa West, Paula Moyer

Staff: Village Manager Brian Gruesbeck

West calls meeting to order

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

Motion to approve last meeting minutes by Pryde. Second by Stewart. **Motion Carried**

Citizen Comments: n/a

New Business:

Ice Rink Location: Susie and Lewis Cooper, owners of the Elk Rapids Marina presented hosting the ice rink on their property along River Street. They proposed leasing the space to the Village for \$1. They will keep the food truck open as much as possible and plan to set up a fire pit and outdoor lighting. Parks and Recreation Commission will maintain the rink. Marcus Evans, DPW Superintendent was in favor of the idea and proposed moving the Garden Shed to the property to house skates and trainers.

Motion by Stewart to move the ice rink to the Elk Rapids Marina and send the request to Village Council for approval. Second by Pryde. **Motion carried.**

Food Trucks in Veterans Memorial Park: Discussion on having food trucks on a regular basis in the Veterans Park and how it would benefit the community and enhance the Parks and Recreation Commission goals for the Park. Discussed reaching out to the DDA to be involved in the discussion since they represent downtown businesses. The Commission recommended permanent Food Trucks not be allowed in Veterans Park but could be allowed for Special Events authorized by the Village Council. More discussion to follow.

Unfinished Business:

CommUNITY Event September 18: The event will be held from 12-3:00 pm in Veterans Park. Discussed event schedule and groups planning to participate in the event. Park and Recreation Commission members were encouraged to attend and assist as needed. Discussed publicity for the event.

Motion by Pryde to use Parks and Recreation funds to advertise the CommUNITY event, not to exceed \$750. Second by Stewart. **Motion carried.**

Budget Discussion: Evans discussed the poor condition of playground and swing equipment and the deteriorating condition of the tennis/basketball courts in Veterans Park. Discussed the need to replace the bridge structure and the Commission will research and get public input on what other type of equipment would be a good fit for the Park and how it will be funded. More discussion and a possible decision will occur when the Commission holds the October 7 meeting at 5:00 pm in Veterans Park. West requested the timer for the lights at the basketball courts be left on longer and it was decided to shut them off at 10 pm.

Nakwema Update: A stakeholders meeting is planned later in September.

Norte Update: The Slow Roll is going well.

Swim Lessons in Lake: Discussed the need to find a certified open water instructor to teach lessons next summer.

Trail Town: Application is finished and will be submitted since it has been approved by Village Council.

Correspondence: n/a

Reports-Council Liaison: Pryde reported the Council was given an update on the upcoming CommUNITY event. The Powerhome Solar update will be addressed at the next meeting. A motion to support the Pure Michigan Trailtown designation passed. The 13 Ways Community Project update report is available. The Elk Rapids District Library Board has not settled the library lease issue and will begin fundraising later this year for library upgrades.

Next meeting Thursday October 7 at 5:00 pm in Veterans Park.

Motion by Stewart to Adjourn. Second by Moyer. Meeting adjourned.