

Minutes
Village of Elk Rapids
Parks and Recreation Commission
October 7, 2021

Present:

Charlie Pryde, Gordon Stewart, Melissa West, Paula Moyer, Mike Conrad

West calls meeting to order

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

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

Citizen Comments: n/a

New Business:

Green ER proposed event: Members of Green ER discussed the Nature Fair event to be held June 18, 2022 and requested the use of Veterans Memorial Park. Green ER will invite local environmental organizations to set up a table to network and educate the public on the work of their organization. Hands on activities will also be available.

Motion to support the Green ER Nature Fair June 18 by Pryde. Second by Moyer. **Motion Carried**

Assessment of Veterans Memorial Park: Commission members, along with DPW Superintendent Marcus Evans, walked around the Park area and discussed future projects and needs:

- Original 1874 school bell from ERHS: discussed keeping the bell in the current location but replacing the crumbling base. Further discussion at the next meeting.
- Lake shoreline: discussed removing the extra brush and poison ivy along the west shoreline to make it more accessible. It was decided to not remove the brush to allow privacy on the beach.
- Park Rules signs: discussed deteriorated condition and recommended removing them.
- Wooden Macinac Bridge structure and infant swing sets: discussed deteriorated and damaged condition and recommended replacing both structures once replacements have been found. Public input will be sought.
- ADA swing set: structure was removed during high lake water and recommended returning it to the park closer to the ADA walkway.
- Tree stump near the bridge structure: discussed the stump's value and recommended removal.
- Blue playground equipment: discussed the equipment is in good condition and allows kids to "burn off energy". Recommended the equipment stay.

- Tennis court wooden fencing: discussed the benefit of a clear coat on the wood. It was suggested that the art murals used around the skating rink be used to cover the wood, to be decided at a later date.
 - Large trees along the river: discussed the exposed roots. Recommended moving excess sand to protect the roots.
 - Watershed Center signs: discussed deteriorated condition of signs. Recommended contacting the Watershed for replacement or removal.
 - Bike racks at tennis courts: discussed the need for more bike racks. Recommended keeping one rack at the basketball courts and moving the other 2 to the west end of the park and closer to the beach area.
 - Grass area by the Veterans Memorial: discussed the area is often very wet. Recommended exploring ways to build up the area and provide drainage so that the area can be better used. The nearby steps are already planned to be replaced.
 - Veterans Memorial: discussed the condition of the Memorial. Recommended cleaning up the area, placing a potted plant on top of the old fountain, replacing the glass covering the plaque and contacting Barker Creek for some landscape work.
 - Riverbank area: discussed the condition of the riverbank and plants. Recommended clean up should be a group effort with Green ER and will discuss at a later date.
 - Tennis and Basketball courts: Evans pointed out how the courts are sinking
- Correspondence: A letter was sent to the Commission requesting the tennis court in Memorial Park marked as a pickleball court be turned into 2 dedicated pickleball courts or change the color of the current pickleball markings. Discussed the potential cost and practicality since the court was resurfaced 2 years ago. Recommended exploring changing the color of the pickleball lines and the issue of creating 2 dedicated courts be explored the next time the court needs to be resurfaced, potentially 8 years.

Next meeting Thursday November 4 at 7:00 pm at Government Center.

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