

DEARBORN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Elizabeth Murray, Chair

Sara Platz, Vice Chair

Sean Fletcher, Director of Dearborn Parks & Recreation

Commissioners:

Rami Abousaleh – Ameer Al-Jabiri – Jamal Aljahmi – Kate Brady-Medley – Steve Durant – Walid Fidama – Greg Gomolak – Warren Hartley – Cade McLogan – John Ruselowski – Mark Schobert – John Sczomak – Johanna Seidel – Joe Siciliano – Jim Siwik – Eugene Smith – EmmaJean Woodyard

September 11, 2024

Meeting was conducted in-person only at the FCPAC

PRESENT: Rami Abousaleh, Steve Durant, Walid Fidama, Warren Hartley, Elizabeth Murray, John Ruselowski, Mark Schobert, John Sczomak, Joesph Siciliano, Eugene Smith, EmmaJean Woodyard

ALSO PRESENT: Sean Fletcher, Director, Dearborn Parks and Recreation

Meeting called to order by Chair Murray at 701pm

Motion to approve July minutes made by Hartley, seconded by Ruselowski.

Motion to approve agenda made by Fidama seconded by Abousaleh

Chair Murray reviewed the meeting last month at Morningside Park. Discussed adding garbage cans and picnic tables. Consensus was that the park looked great and the residents were very active there.

Chair Murray reported that the Michigan FC is now a soccer partnership. They have received a grant that will be used to update the fields at the center. Their focus is on involving underprivileged children.

Directors Report

Director Fletcher reported that Peace Park #1 is close to completion. The Grand Opening is scheduled for September 27th.

“Birdies”, which will be the restaurant at Dearborn Hills is scheduled to open in early October. It will be open all year.

Turf consultant reviewed Dearborn Hills course. Learned about newer chemicals. Expecting conditions to be even better in the Spring. Will make sure course is put to bed appropriately at the end of the season.

A new roof being installed at Mystic Creek. \$75,000 project. Mystic had a great July with \$283,000 in revenue as compared to \$252,000 in 2023.

Cattails course in South Lyon is closing. Expect a 1-2% bump in revenue at Mystic as a result.

The Recreation Department is awaiting year-end financials.

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The fitness area renovation is complete. New floor, new equipment, climbing wall down, more cardio equipment, ropes. Some equipment has been moved to second floor, including a complete circuit workout.

Currently 4400 members of fitness center.

Café near fitness center opening next week.

Camp Dearborn revenue was 1.52 million, which is \$230,000 better than last year.

Director Fletcher complimented Steve Guibord, Jamie Timiny and the Camp Dearborn team for their efforts at initiating new programming and updates.

A thorough inspection of the entire Camp will take place to plan preparing for fall/winter maintenance plan.

Bids are going out soon for Comfort Station #3. Need to get some A & E work done for Comfort Stations #4 and #5. Work will be done before opening next spring.

Approximately 100 people attended the Master Plan meeting at Camp Dearborn. People appeared very excited about the Master Plan.

Will be hiring Lead Park Maintenance Technician.

Crowley Inclusive Playground has been moving along. Playground should be done first weekend in November. After Crowley an inclusive playground will be built at Ford Woods.

There will be new splash pads features installed at Crowley, Whitmore-Bolles, and Hemlock. Should be ready for 2025 season.

An additional picnic shelter is being built at Levagood.

Chair Murray complimented the Department on the condition of the tennis courts and noted how busy the courts have been.

Steve Guibord present on programming taking place at Camp Dearborn.

Focus has been on staffing, facilities and events.

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More than 80% of Camp Dearborn staff is returning next year, including 5/6 lifeguards.

Facilities are looking great. Legacy families are very happy. Feedback has been very positive.

The canteen will be managed by City staff.

Moved the green chair back outside.

Have had successful live concerts at the Canteen.

Resurrection of fishing derby was very successful.

Steve cleaned up Watermelon Creek. Had over 100 participants for duck races.

“Battle of the Brits” was very successful.

“Tin Can Tourists” will be held 9/23/24.

Fall Flea Market and car shows will be held in new Maple Area.

Halloween weekends are selling out. Three firework shows are planned.

Commissioner Ruselowski inquired about cross country programming. Missed the cut-off for the city meet. Organizations have been out to measure potential courses.

Disk Golf had more than 90 reservations.

Online Welcome Package was a huge success.

Slides of the Master Plan presentation are available on the Camp Dearborn website.

Future planning includes building a resort hotel with 40-50 rooms.

Cultural Arts Committee

No meeting was held in September.

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Commissioner Woodyard reported that the dedication for the Pockets of Perception mural occurred in August.

May be getting a second mural on the Center. The city was approached by the DIA regarding a program where the DIA will be sent a mural artist and work with the community to create a mural. Stipulation is that it has to be on a municipal building. This would not include the POP team.

Butterfly Garden installed near Roman Village.

Newest Parks & Recreation booklet has a section that includes partner cultural arts organizations.

The Commission recognized Commissioner John Ruselowski for his selection as “Hero of the Game” for the University of Michigan vs. Fresno State football game.

Being no further business, the Chair Murray closed the meeting at 8:03pm

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION WILL BE October 9, 2024, AT 7PM AT FCPAC.