

# 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**

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE DEARBORN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION JANUARY 8, 2024**

Meeting was conducted in-person only at the FCPAC

**PRESENT:** Abousaleh; Al-Jabiri; Aljahmi; Murray; Brady-Medley; Durant; Fidama; Hartley; Murray; Platz; Sczomak; Seidel; Smith; Woodyard

**EXCUSED:** Gomolak; McLogan; Ruselowski; Siciliano; Siwik

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jon Golich, Assistant Director, Dearborn Parks and Recreation

Meeting called to order by Chair Murray at 704pm.

Chair Murray stated that approval of Commission Bylaws and selection of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary will be postponed until the next meeting.

October Minutes were approved.

November Minutes were approved.

Meeting agenda was approved.

### **Director's Report**

Jon Golich gave the Director's Report.

Putting Dearborn Hills to bed for the winter went very well. Going to council for approval to purchase two mowers which will help keep course maintenance in-house. Have hired a green specialist to temporarily work on the course greens and teach staff green maintenance.

Fitness Area – Fitness area is looking fantastic. Going with two memberships for the Fitness area-monthly and yearly. Goal is to get back to \$1,000,000 in memberships. Feel pricing is very competitive with gyms in the area. Have Silver Sneaker enrollment available. Looking for a lot a specials and promotions during the coming year. Encouraged Commission to share information on the Fitness area on social media. Not having a Black Friday sale did not have a significant impact. Still have fee assistance program and one staff member is dedicated to that. Receive about 30-40 fee assistance requests per year. No longer have corporate memberships, with memberships being resident and non-resident.

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Dearborn Hills restaurant opening at the end of the month. “Birdies.”

Holiday events were well attended. Will be seeing more events with interdepartmental involvement.

Daddy-Daughter Dance will be two nights. “Emerald City.”

Crowley Inclusive Playscape has been a big hit. Lots of positive feedback.

Ford Woods Inclusive Playscape is about 60% complete.

Will be going to City Council to turn the Ford Woods in-line skating rink into seven pickleball courts.

The Peace Park in the South looks to open in August. They will have two pickleball courts and full court basketball court. Looking to also put in a set of swings.

There were unused community block grant dollars which are being allocated to building a \$1,000,000 inclusive playground at Lapeer Park.

There was a question about the cracks in the basketball court at Lapeer. Mr. Golich said they would look into it.

The bathhouses being constructed for the pools are going to look fantastic.

There was a question regarding winter construction. Mr. Golich stated that the construction is being done correctly under winter conditions and being inspected every step of the way.

Playgrounds are a priority for the city.

Looking at obtaining DNR dollars for Camp Dearborn.

Bids are out for comfort station repair and replacement.

Splash pads are being upgraded in the Spring.

## **Cultural Arts Committee**

Commissioner Sczomak reported that the committee met yesterday (January 8<sup>th</sup>) and attendance was very good, with seven organizations represented. Primary focus of the meeting was on discussing cultural arts needs at FCPAC and within the community.

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The Mayor's Arts Award will be April 28, 2025 at 700pm at Studio A.

Commissioners were encouraged to attend the Mayor's Arts Awards and the Sports Awards Ceremony.

Chair Murray discussed "excused" vs "non-excused" absences. Missing the Mayor's Arts Awards or the Sports Awards Ceremony will be considered non-excused absences.

Commissioner Woodyard reported that there will be the Theresa Lousias juried photography show with 35 artists. Opening is January 17<sup>th</sup> with a reception from 5pm to 8pm.

## **Sports Awards Ceremony**

Commissioner Abousaleh thanked the Commissioners who participated in the Hall of Fame Selections. Three individuals were selected.

Commissioner Abousaleh noted that nominations are dwindling. He encouraged Commissioners to participate in the nomination process.

Van Patrick Nominees will be nominated February 9<sup>th</sup>.

There was discussion of the 1100am Sunday start time for the Van Patrick interviews and the Sports Awards Ceremony.

Deadline for Ads is March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Half page ad is \$50 and full-page ad is \$100.

Review of program and Video is March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Working out details for a Team Award in honor of Kevin Krieger, which will begin next year.

There was a general discussion of moving from nominating only city-sponsored athletes in the Hall of Fame to nominees from partner organizations. Chair Murray suggested forming a subcommittee to look at this.

There was a discussion regarding re-starting to have a partner organization make a presentation to the Commission each month with the goal of mutual learning about the respective organization and the commission and developing interest in participation in the Hall of Fame.

Jon Golich suggested a town hall meeting involving all the partner organizations.

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Commissioner Smith suggested the Commission needs to formulate a process for partner organizations to participate in the Hall of Fame.

Commissioner Aljahmi suggested making site visits to the partner organizations.

Chair Murray suggested having a calendar of sports events involving the partners.

Chair Murray is going to ask Angel to utilize Google Invites for Recreation Commission events and special events.

Being no further business, Chair Murray closed the meeting at 809pm

**THE NEXT OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION WILL BE FEBRUARY 12, 2025 AT THE DISC. AT 7PM.**

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**FEBRUARY 9, 2025 (1100AM) - VAN PATRICK INTERVIEWS (FCPAC)**

**MARCH 3, 2025 – DEADLINE FOR ADS.**

**MARCH 10, 2025 (600PM) – PROGRAM AND VIDEO REVIEW (FCPAC)**

**MARCH 16, 2025 (1100AM) – SPORTS AWARDS CEREMONY (FCPAC)**

**APRIL 28, 2025 – (700PM) – MAYOR’S ARTS AWARDS (STUDIO A)**