

**ESCANABA RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**May Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 13, 2014**

The Escanaba Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session on Tuesday, May 13, 2014. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Harris, Randy Kleiman,  
Todd Maki, Karen Moore

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Tom Penegor, Recreation Director  
Cheryl Syers, Recreation Office Assistant  
Ralph Blasier, City Council Liaison  
Bill Farrell, Public Works Director  
Terry Flower, Engineering Assistant

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

**Approval/Correction of the February 11, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes**

The Recreation Advisory Board reviewed the regular meeting minutes from Tuesday, February 11, 2014. Randy Kleiman motioned to approve the minutes as written. Jonathan Harris seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Adjustments to the Agenda**

None.

**Conflict of Interest Declarations**

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. **Recreation Passport Grant at Ludington Park.** Mr. Penegor stated the required documentation has been submitted and approved by MDNR for this project. The tennis court resurfacing bid was sent out April 30<sup>th</sup> with a bid opening set for May 20, 2014.

2. **2014/2015 Recreation Budget.** Mr. Penegor informed a capital improvement item approved within the 2014/2015 budget is to replace a deteriorated 55'x30' cement slab to the main (North) entrance of the Civic Center at a cost of \$7,000.

The Civic Center roof is currently over twenty (20) years old and is leaking. Funding for a new roof will come from the Bonifas Fund.

3. **Plum Creek Grant.** Mr. Penegor advised in January, 2014 the City applied to Plum Creek for a grant in the amount of \$3,087 to purchase ski trail groom equipment. Plum Creek recently reviewed the application and approved an award of \$2,000. Community Foundation for Delta County also pledged \$1,244.92 towards the equipment purchase. The estimated equipment cost is \$4,332 leaving a short fall of \$1,087.08. The City may elect to

purchase the 72" compaction drag, tracksetter, and electric actuator with the funds available and purchase the 44" rough cut trailcutter at a future date should more funding become available.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Yellow Bike Program.** Mr. Penegor advised the yellow bike program is now in its fourth year and the Civic Center has been approached by the Delta-Menominee Health Department to add the Civic Center as a host site to provide free bikes to the public. Currently, the Escanaba Municipal Marina is the only other host site. The Beaten Path located downtown has discontinued as a host site due to lack of storage space for the bikes. The board voted unanimously to approve the Civic Center as an additional host site for the program.

**2. Comfort Inn Suites Lease.** The board reviewed a proposed Lease between the City of Escanaba and the Comfort Inn Suites to make their parking lot the City's new trail head for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The board voted unanimously in favor of the Lease.

**3. 2014 Summer Recreation Brochure.** The Summer Recreation Brochure is now available on-line and approximately 1,500 brochures were distributed to students through local schools. The brochure contains a complete list of all upcoming summer events and recreation programs available.

**4. Babe Ruth/Veteran's Baseball Field Name Change.** Mr. Penegor informed the board that the current baseball field located at Veteran's park was originally called the Babe Ruth Field in the 60's and 70's. In later years when senior Little League used the field it was referred to as Veteran's Field. The local Community Foundation recently approached the City to re-name the baseball field at Veteran's Park to Tapani Field, to honor Kevin Tapani. Tapani is an Escanaba native who went on to play professional baseball and was a member of the 1991 Minnesota Twins World Series Champion team and played on this field in his youth. Mr. Penegor advised the board that over the past few years this baseball field at Veteran's Park has not been used. However, recent changes to boundary rules now allow Soo Hill/Danforth youth to play in Escanaba creating more teams and the need for another field. The Community Foundation has agreed to provide funding for an electronic scoreboard and sign that would say "Tapani Field" at Veteran's Park. Motion by Todd Maki to re-name the baseball field Tapani Field, seconded by Randy Kleiman, unanimous.

**5. Non-Motorized Master Plan.** Mr. Penegor advised the City needs to update the 2003 Non-Motorized Master Plan, should funding become available for improvements. City Engineer Bill Farrell and Engineering Assistant Terry Flower presented a power point with various options available. The board asked numerous questions and provided input. Bill Farrell indicated he would prepare proposed preferred routes with cost estimates based on board input.

**6. Civic Center Activity Report/Upcoming Events.** Mr. Penegor announced the Civic Center is now on summer hours open Monday-Friday from 7:30am-4:00pm. The Recreation Department is accepting registration forms for summer programs including soccer, tennis, and swim lessons. Forms are also provided for Little League and T-Ball.

The Little League season begins tonight with the first games to be played at Royce Park. This season's games are approximately three weeks later due to the weather. No games will be played at Dickson Field for an additional two weeks due to the new sod that was put in last fall.

The first of three Municipal Dock Festivals will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2014 from 5-10pm with a concert by "Say What", children's activities and games, City vehicle rodeo, and food vendors.

The Monday night concerts organized by the Bonifas Arts Center and scheduled for July at the band shell have been cancelled due to lack of funding.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Penegor thanked Karen Moore for her six years of service to the Recreation Board.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

None.

**Adjournment.** With no further business, Randy Kleiman motioned to adjourn the meeting and Jonathan Harris seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Penegor  
Recreation Director

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Karen Moore, Acting Chairperson

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Date