



**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

May 5, 2021

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Kelli Jo Peltier, Lee Mueller, Kim VanDriel, Carl Johnson

Others: Tripp Frey (Frey Foundation), Kristin Turkelson (Grand Rapids Planning Department), David Marquardt, Michelle Slykhouse (Grand Rapids Parks Department)

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Lee Mueller, supported by Carl Johnson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Lee Mueller, supported by Kim VanDriel, to approve the April 14, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Comments from Public

None

Agenda Item(s)

Rosa Parks Circle Conservancy

Tripp stated the restrooms will be improved and the entire space will have upgraded materials. Construction will start next week. The goal is to have a re-dedication ceremony in September.

Master Plan

Kristin stated there is a facilitator program in place to start engagement for the 2021 master plan. The facilitators received some training on planning and equity. Youth perspective was provided through a Helping Important People Succeed (HIPS) program. Planning staff routinely use the master plan and read through the document and provided input also.

The focus of the master plan now is equity, safety, housing, public art, parks and other items that were identified through the facilitator program. Changes in focus from the 2002 master plan to now include things like displacement and gentrification. Partnerships will remain important.

Feedback so far is that the master plan and policies that support need to be data driven. Next steps include forming a steering committee, RFP, interview consultants (good with equity and communications will be essential), hiring a consultant and then beginning public process. The public process will begin mid to late summer. The entire process will take about two to two and a half years and then implementation will happen. Implementation is typically a zoning ordinance update.

Carl asked if there is consideration to overlap implementation with recommendation. Kristin stated that is a possibility as it would save community time and engagement fatigue. The budget for the master plan update is about one million dollars. David stated the planning process has already started for the parks master plan update and finalization will be at the end of this year. The parks master plan needs to be submitted to the state by April 2022 for grant purposes.

Lee stated he participated in some of the facilitator meetings and asked to what extent is Green Grand Rapids considered in the master plan. Kristin stated some of the plans done after the 2002 master plan might need updating. Determining whether they can be folded into the new master plan or whether the sub-plans have already lived their useful life and are no longer needed will be a step in the process. Once a consultant is on board then the sub area plans will be evaluated.

Advisory Board/Urban Forestry Committee liaison for 2022

Lee explained the purpose and time commitment of the Urban Forestry Committee (UFC). There is one seat on the UFC that is a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board liaison. The liaison does not have to know anything about trees but the intent of the position to help the UFC understand things that are happening in the parks.

Budget

Reports were provided. No discussion.

Friends of Grand Rapids Parks strategies

Moved to June meeting.

Agenda items for next meeting

- Advisory Board/Urban Forestry Committee liaison for 2022
- Friends of Grand Rapids Parks strategies

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.