

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF ST. CLAIR SHORES
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
April 13, 2023**

PRESENT:

John Jonassen
Lillian Bate
Doug Damm
Christine Harris
April Heier
Gerrit Ketelhut
Brian Loridon

ABSENT:

Shawn Nicholson
Mayor Walby

ALSO PRESENT:

Henry Bowman

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Ayla Klein

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:24 p.m. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING MARCH 9, 2023

Motion by Ms. Bate, seconded by Mrs. Harris to approve the March 9, 2023 meeting minutes

AYES:	All
NAYES:	None
ABSENT:	Nicholson, Mayor Walby

DIRECTORS REPORT

Mr. Bowman handed out flyers for the Big Brew Festival. He said we will be doing the ribbon cutting for the pier at 2 p.m. that day. We are expecting a big crowd. This pier is gorgeous, and he is so proud to be associated with this.

Mr. Bowman said our brand-new freighter play structure will be going in Veteran's Memorial Park at the end of this month.

Mr. Bowman said so far, we have 4 co-ed softball teams. We don't have any women's or men's teams.

Mr. Jonassen said it's getting tough to have women's and men's softball teams. A lot of places are barely hanging on. The reason co-ed works for us is because it's on Sunday.

Mr. Bowman said Total Sports is doing okay because they have a bar.

Mr. Bowman said our fireworks are coming up in June. He said if anyone knows anyone that would like to sponsor, let him know and we can get them involved. He stated that our fireworks are 2nd to only downtown Detroit. It is fantastic, but it takes a lot of money to put them on. He mentioned some of the fireworks sponsors that we have so far. He said we are still looking for people to get involved.

Mr. Bowman said the Lac Ste Claire Kiwanis Club project for this summer will be teaching kids how to fish. We will set up at the first farmers market and then do some classes and then get them out on the pier.

NEW BUSINESS - None

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bowman said Dawn will be running our concession stands. Everything is going smooth, and it will be open more regularly.

Mr. Loridon asked when it was going to be open because the bathrooms weren't open yet.

Mrs. Harris said that she heard that we are hurting bad for people to work at Kyte Monroe.

Mr. Bowman said the city manager is aware of that and we are looking at upgrading people's pay to make it more enticing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Athletics – Programs, Facilities, Group

Soccer – Christine Harris

Mrs. Harris said they are up to 407, which is good. Everybody seems to be happy with the new uniforms and they have all the fields to practice in.

Baseball – John Jonassen and Brian Loridon

Mr. Loridon said they are just under 600 this year. Every division is full and is waitlisted right now.

Mr. Jonassen said opening day is on Saturday, May 20th.

Co-ed and Women's Softball – Lillian Bate

Ms. Bate said we have 4 co-ed teams. She asked when they would start.

Mr. Jonassen said probably the last weekend in April.

Horseshoe Club – Lillian Bate

Ms. Bate said they will have a state doubles tournament in July. They are going to start in May.

Hockey and Figure Skating – Shawn Nicholson

Lakefront Parks & Aquatics Facilities

Lac Sainte Claire Harbor, Pool, Aquatics – Doug Damm, Chairman

Mr. Damm said they are getting ready for the season.

Mr. Bowman said the new slide is in. He mentioned some things they are working on and said everything is going well.

Blossom Heath Park and Wahby Park – Lillian Bate

Ms. Bate said the park is wonderful.

Mr. Bowman said a new fence and gate will be going up at the front of the park. If you have a park pass you can drive in. If you don't have a park pass, you have to walk in and you can't use the park.

Veteran's Memorial Park – Christine Harris

Mrs. Harris said she was there last month checking things out and it was soggy. She said she hasn't been there since.

Mr. Bowman said we bought a machine to deter geese at Veterans Memorial Park.

Mr. Bowman said we have Tom Mehl signed up with the Parks and Recreation for CPSI Training and Certification.

Neighborhood parks – April Heier

Mrs. Heier gave a short report on the following parks:

- Frederick Park - in the new playground the drainage is great. The picnic tables may need to be painted soon. The Frederick memorial needs to be cleaned up and needs paint.
- Fresard Park – looks good. The pavers there are even again and it looks good.
- Blackburn Park– the benches need paint.
- Brys Park – the fence lines need to be cleaned up. The soccer goals are rusted. They need nets and paint. The infields need some mixture.

Mr. Bowman said we have new picnic tables now and we are looking at putting these in the pavilions and moving the other picnic tables to the parks.

Mr. Bowman mentioned that he will be meeting with the Brys family tomorrow because they want to add a memorial bench.

Mrs. Harris mentioned that she doesn't think Brys Park is on their field permit.

Recreation and Instruction Programs

Senior Liaison – Lil Bate

Ms. Bate said they had pickleball indoor, but now they are outdoor.

Mr. Bowman said we are hosting a pickleball tournament in July. We are looking to improve the pickleball courts at Kyte Monroe.

Mr. Lordon said he and his family attended the Easter Egg Hunt and it was really nice.

Special Needs Program

Mr. Bowman said we are doing registrations now.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - None

OPEN DISCUSSION

Ms. Bate asked about the playground equipment at Kyte Monroe.

Mr. Bowman said we did get the money for the lights and playground equipment. It will be this year. Then at that point, every playground we run will be upgraded at that point.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Heier to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

[THE PRECEDING MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF A PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING AND DO NOT REPRESENT A VERBATIM RECORD]