

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

PRESENT:

John Jonassen
Lillian Bate
Doug Damm
April Heier
Shawn Nicholson
Mayor Walby

ABSENT:

Christine Harris
Gerrit Ketelhut
Brian Loridon

ALSO PRESENT:

Henry Bowman

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Ayla Klein

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING MAY 11, 2023

Motion by Mrs. Bate, seconded by Mayor Walby to approve the May 11, 2023 meeting minutes

AYES:	All
NAYES:	None
ABSENT:	Harris, Ketelhut, Loridon

DIRECTORS REPORT

Mr. Bowman said the Veteran's Memorial Park playscape is done. He said the Music on the Lake Concerts are going well. He mentioned the numbers that he got for the attendance at some of the concerts. He said Aqua Fest will be on August 6th and he listed the entertainment that is scheduled.

Mr. Bowman said the Parks and Recreation Master Plan public meeting will be at the Senior Center on August 1st from 3pm to 7pm.

Mr. Nicholson asked if we are advertising it.

Mr. Bowman said yes, in the Macomb Daily and on social media.

Mr. Nicholson asked about the gate guards here (at Blossom heath).

Mr. Bowman said it is going good. We have new cameras going in. We have the police helping them get people out at 9:30pm and it still takes a while to get people out.

Mr. Nicholson thinks we have to make a change and account for these people who are coming in and out with better passes. He suggested having a card they have to swipe. That way if they are down there and they are giving the gate guard a hard time, we will know who they are.

Mrs. Heier asked if closing time is at a certain time or at dusk.

Mr. Bowman said it's at 10pm.

There was discussion on how to get people out at a certain time.

Mr. Nicholson suggested having an initial fee of \$25.00 and then a fee of \$5.00 or more every year to renew, and a fee of \$25.00 to replace lost passes. He explained some scenarios and he mentioned how when he was here, two kids were having to get people out and they called the police to help them get people out.

Mrs. Heier said it is stricter than when it first started and she feels that they are being proactive.

There was discussion about the gate being damaged.

Mrs. Heier said she watched how people would wait for a car to open the gate and sneak in.

Mr. Jonassen asked if the gate guard will have body cameras.

Mr. Bowman said there will be cameras aimed at them at the guard shack.

Mr. Nicholson said he thinks we need to make it strict and then loosen the rules.

Mr. Nicholson asked how often the porta johns are cleaned because they stink. He thinks we need to clean them more often.

Mrs. Heier said she knows that there isn't a way to prevent it because she has tried. She mentioned that she will send the link to air fresheners.

Mr. Nicholson said he overheard someone comment that there aren't ladders in the water on the pier.

Mayor Walby said it was not mandated. It was mentioned that we don't want to encourage people to go in the water.

Mayor Walby said we realize that the first year we were going to figure out how to fix issues.

There was discussion about some issues and Mr. Nicholson suggested getting a swiper to swipe licenses and the board agreed.

Mrs. Heier commented that she thinks things are getting better.

Mr. Nicholson commented that he is glad that it is closed at night.

Mr. Damm asked if the band that was supposed to play last night be rescheduled.

Mr. Bowman said we are trying to reschedule them.

NEW BUSINESS - None

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Bate asked about the picnic tables behind the backstops.

Mr. Bowman said we need to get a few more picnic tables there.

Mr. Nicholson mentioned how nice the Eastpointe/Roseville board is.

Mr. Jonassen said we talked about getting a board years ago, but the city manager at the time didn't want it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Athletics – Programs, Facilities, Group

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

Soccer – Christine Harris

Baseball – John Jonassen and Brian Lordon

Mr. Jonassen said the younger kids is wrapped up and getting the older kids going. He said the numbers are up.

Co-ed and Women's Softball – Lillian Bate

Mrs. Bate said they only have 5 teams.

Horseshoe Club – Lillian Bate

Mrs. Bate said they have a state tournament in August. She asked about getting the stone in the driveway.

Mr. Bowman said he will check into it.

Hockey and Figure Skating – Shawn Nicholson

Mr. Nicholson said the benches are really cool and look good. He said there are some gaps that need to be fixed in the rubber mats. He said that the figure skating club complained that the rink is filthy and not kept clean and there are weak spots in the wood in the bleachers.

Lakefront Parks & Aquatics Facilities

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

Mr. Damm said it's all looking good. He mentioned that his son swims there every day.

Blossom Heath Park and Wahby Park – Lillian Bate

Mrs. Bate said it looks gorgeous there and evening is good.

Veteran's Memorial Park – Christine Harris

Mr. Bowman said the park is looking great and everything is going well. The play structure is done and the splash pad has been going all summer.

Mr. Nicholson asked how many more years we can get out of the bandshell.

Mr. Bowman said he thinks we can get 2 to 3 more years. Mayor Walby agreed. Mayor Walby gave an update on the repairs that have been done and what we are planning to do.

Neighborhood parks – April Heier

Mrs. Heier said the skate parks seems to have been slower lately and there hasn't been any graffiti. She said the parks all look great and there hasn't been much trash. It's been picked up.

Mr. Bowman stated that the Eagles Club has volunteered to pick up trash at the parks.

Recreation and Instruction Programs

Senior Liaison – Lil Bate

Mrs. Bate asked Henry about pickleball.

Mr. Bowman replied that it has been busy.

Special Needs Program

Mr. Bowman said everything is going well.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - None

OPEN DISCUSSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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