

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF ST. CLAIR SHORES  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
October 12, 2023**

**PRESENT:**

John Jonassen  
Lillian Bate  
Doug Damm  
Brian Lorida  
Mayor Walby

**ABSENT:**

Christine Harris  
April Heier  
Shawn Nicholson

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Henry Bowman  
Rob Spinazzola

**RECORDING SECRETARY:**

Ayla Klein

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING AUGUST 10, 2023**

**Motion by Ms. Bate, seconded by Mr. Damm to approve the August 10, 2023 meeting minutes**

**AYES: All**  
**NAYES: None**  
**ABSENT: Harris, Heier, Nicholson**

**DIRECTORS REPORT**

Mr. Bowman said we have a good turnout for the Farmers Market this evening. The Orbitsuns bring in a good crowd.

Mr. Bowman announced that effective Monday, he will be stepping down as Parks and Recreation Director. He will be the Events Director.

The Committee thanked Henry for everything.

Mr. Spinazzola said he didn't expect to come into the role this way. He's been working for the city for 17 years and he appreciates everyone supporting him. He said for anyone to call him anytime.

Mr. Jonassen thanked Henry and congratulated Rob. He said there has been a "musical chairs" of Parks and Recreation Directors this summer in the different cities. He told Rob to contact him if he needs anything.

Mr. Bowman said we have 84 vendors for the Halloween Fun Fest. He thinks it will be good.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Walby said Pete Accica is retiring from Council. He said he will be shuffling liaisons and Parks and Recreation Commission may have a new liaison. He said it's been a number of years since we moved the liaisons around.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Spinazzola said in 2019 we applied for a grant for the lights and playground and Kyte Monroe. We were approved for \$300,000 with a match of \$300,000. It took a while to get the money out and the cost has increased. We currently are expecting to get lighting for two or three diamonds and the playground. We will bid out each diamond individually, then based on cost, we'll determine which diamonds get done. He said the estimates have doubled and we will have to be choosy because we have to get the playground as well.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Athletics – Programs, Facilities, Group**

Mayor Walby said we are going to try in the future to get pickleball courts at the north end. It's been a great success at the south end. We will take our tennis courts at Kyte and turn it into pickleball courts. We need to figure out how to fit it in the budget.

Mr. Loridon said pickleball is growing. He asked if you can get two pickleball courts out of the tennis court.

Mr. Spinazzola said he thinks you can.

There was discussion about the additions and improvements at Kennedy Middle School. A question was asked about if they would put pickleball courts in at Kennedy. It was mentioned how non-residents come to use the pickleball courts and they will see how St. Clair Shores is making improvements.

### **Soccer – Christine Harris**

### **Baseball – John Jonassen and Brian Loridon**

### **Co-ed and Women's Softball – Lillian Bate**

Ms. Bate said we don't have a co-ed league this year.

Mr. Jonassen said he and Henry were talking about how it would be a good thing to register our teams with USA Softball. That way we could receive grant money as well.

Mr. Jonassen said getting women's teams are tough now. Co-ed teams are better. The men's teams are good.

Mr. Spinazzola said we can always try to put digital ads out there.

There was discussion about how Liberty closed and how many teams went to Total Sports and Sterling Heights.

Mr. Spinazzola mentioned that not having alcohol at our facility is a detriment.

**Horseshoe Club – Lillian Bate**

**Hockey and Figure Skating – Shawn Nicholson**

**Lakefront Parks & Aquatics Facilities**

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

Mr. Spinazzola said we started demolition on the pump house and it is moving along as scheduled.

**Blossom Heath Park and Wahby Park – Lillian Bate**

**Veteran’s Memorial Park – Christine Harris**

***Neighborhood parks – April Heier***

**Recreation and Instruction Programs**

**Senior Liaison – Lil Bate**

**Special Needs Program**

Mr. Spinazzola said that the Stand Out group is being held at the VFW hall. Kayla, who ran the Special Needs Program directs the Stand Out Program now. We started up a Special Needs Golf Program a few years ago. It’s for an hour on Monday nights.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - None**

**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Ms. Bate asked about the gravel for the Horseshoe Club.

Mr. Bowman said he and Rob will follow up.

Mr. Bowman thanked everyone and said he appreciates everything. He told the members that they can call him anytime.

The committee members thanked Henry and told him that he did a great job.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Mayor Walby, seconded by Mr. Damm to adjourn the meeting.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.**

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