

LOWELL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2008, AT 8:30 A.M.

Present: Beachum (arrived at 8:35 a.m.), Green, Hall, Pfaller and Pomper.

Absent: none.

Also Present: Dave Pasquale, Matt Smith, James Carey, Jeff Eckstrom and James Hinton.

1. Green moved, Pfaller supported to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2008 meeting as submitted. Motion carried.
2. Hall mentioned that the Michigan State University urban planning student project studying the RV Park proposal has been approved.
3. Under Recreation Park, Matt Smith said Lowell Youth Football had a good season at Burch Field. LYF is still reviewing the exterior stairway to the storage building.

Smith told the Commission with this economy, LYF has spent more than taking revenues in. There may be less participants and more need of aid.

4. Under Stoney Lakeside Park, Jeff Eckstrom requested a sign to be located on South Hudson by the Fairgrounds to direct those to the Dog Park. This would be similar in appearance to the "Scenic outlook" sign at the Fairgrounds. The Commissioners said O.K. to the proposal.

Eckstrom told the Commission that a weather shelter has been proposed. It would be 16' x 24', 384 square feet, seven feet in height. A fund drive has started. A cement floor with benches is planned.

Hall believed a "gazebo" design, rustic in nature would be a better fit. He does not want a metal roof, but rather shingles. Hall said the idea is fine, but had concerns regarding construction.

Beachum said Eckstrom and the dog park committee should volunteer and seek donations for materials. Other options need to be examined. Eckstrom stated he would look into this.

Eckstrom commented on the decision to have no parking along Bowes. He discovered this after the fact. The Commissioners said the neighbors across the street were inconsiderate in parking across the sidewalk. This needed to be done.

5. A special baseball tournament is planned for next June at Creekside Park.
6. The Commissioners expressed frustration with the lack of communication involving the Skateboard Park committee.

The proposed addition to the Saranac skateboard facility was briefly discussed.

7. The Lowell Rotary Club has plans to construct a playground at Richards Park. An ash tree was recommended to be removed so that the playground could be better accommodated. The Commissioners said the parks needs more shade trees, not less and wanted the ash tree to remain.

Ice skating is going well. The Xtreme Softball group has been involved with the rink maintenance since December 10.

8. Under Other Business, Pfaller requested information on each parks usage, organizations and participant's financial share.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David M. Pasquale