



Rochester Hills

Minutes

Leisure Activities Committee

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Saran Ahluwalia, John Dalton, Jim Duistermars, Mike Hartner, Brenton Kinker, Kelley Kosuda, Linda Raschke, Steven Swann, Suzanne White

Monday, October 18, 2004

6:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

Draft

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Duistermars called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jim Duistermars, John Dalton and Suzanne White

Absent: Linda Raschke and Steven Swann

Non-Voting Members Present: Mike Hartner, Saran Ahluwalia, Brenton Kinker and Kelley Kosuda

Non-Voting Members Absent: None

Others Present: None

Committee Member Raschke provided previous notice she would be late for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None were presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

2004-0859

Memo from Clerk's Office - Amendments to Bylaws - Order of Business

Attachments: Memo Galeczka - Bylaws Amdmts 092204.pdf; LA Bylaws Final 09-22-04.pdf

A motion was made by Dalton, seconded by White, that this matter be Received and Filed.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Duistermars, Dalton and White

Absent: Raschke and Swann

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2004-0137

Discuss Clinton River Trail Bridge and Intersection Improvement Project

Mr. Hartner recapped the project noting the following:

* *The project has been on-going for almost two (2) years and consists of four (4) major components:*

- *Replace the bridge behind Rochester College that spans over the Clinton River*
- *Add decking and hand rails to the bridge behind City Hall*
- *Add a pedestrian safety island at Avon and Livernois Roads that will have will have pavement markings and signage*
- *Make improvements to every major intersection in Rochester Hills to allow trail users to cross major roads in a safe manner*

* *The project is estimated to cost approximately \$900,000. The City has secured a grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for \$400,000 and obtained two (2) years of CIP funds at \$150,000 each.*

* *MDOT has approved the project drawings.*

* *The bids have been opened with a low bid of \$897,124. Other bids were \$924,000, \$927,000 and \$967,000.*

* *The low bid agreement will be brought forward to City Council in November for approval.*

* *The bridge work can begin over the winter. The project has to be completed by June 30, 2005 or there is a fine of \$900 per day for every day the contractor is late.*

Discussed

(Member Raschke entered at 6:40 PM)

Present: Jim Duistermars, John Dalton, Linda Raschke and Suzanne White

Absent: Steven Swann

2004-0659

Discuss Possible Increase of Park Fees - Motor Vehicle Entry Fees

Attachments: 0585 Resolution from Council dtd 07-28-04.pdf; Chapter 54 Fees - Parks and Rec.pdf; Dept. Recommendation dtd 10-12-04 .pdf; Motor Vehicle Entry Fee Survey 09-2004.pdf; 0659 Draft Resolution dtd 10-12-04.pdf

The committee discussed this matter concurrently with Legislative File #2004-0881 - Sports Field Rental Fees.

A motion was made by White, seconded by Raschke, that this matter be Approved.

Whereas, the current motor vehicle entry fees to the Rochester Hills parks were raised significantly in 2000;

Whereas, the current motor vehicle entry fee schedule is comparable to other regional parks; and

Whereas, an increase at this time could result in reduced park revenue, as visitors would be more inclined to use less expensive regional parks;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Leisure Activities Committee recommends that the motor vehicle entry fee schedule for the Rochester Hills parks remains unchanged for 2005.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Duistermars, Raschke and White
Nay: Dalton
Absent: Swann

NEW BUSINESS**2004-0881**

Discuss Possible Increase of Park Fees - Sports Field Rental Fees

Attachments: Dept. Recommendation dtd 10-12-04.pdf; 2003 Soccer Events.pdf; 2003 Baseball Softball Game Practices.pdf; Sports Facility Fees 2005 Proposal dtd 06-15-04.pdf; Field Rental Fees 2005 Proposal dtd 06-09-04.pdf; Borden Field Maint Costs dtd 05-25-04.pdf; 088

The Committee discussed this matter concurrently with Legislative File #2004-0659 - Motor Vehicle Entry Fees. The following points were made:

- * All revenues for parks go into the General Fund. Parks are not self-supporting. The City does not have a millage for parks.*
- * The Parks Department philosophy has been to not burden just the people who "come through the door" with the total costs of the parks. The parks are there for everyone to enjoy, in addition to providing an intrinsic value of open space for Rochester Hills. The extra costs incurred should be born by the "users" of extra services. For example: the ball players pay a proportional share of the actual direct costs associated with using the fields. However, they do not pay for the additional items like the playground equipment or the parking lot which are costs incurred over the life of the park.*
- * The parks use a car counter along with a formula to calculate attendance. In 2001, Bloomer Park had 108,000 users. In 2002, the Veledrome was opened and the number of users increased by 32% to 143,000. In 2003, the users increased by 25% to 179,000*
- * Field usage fees have not been raised in ten (10) years. The Parks Department has been advising field users that while a fee increase is not being advocated, it will be coming and to prepare for it. Market factors could affect field usage. For example: if Suburban Softball closes, people might decide to join another local organization. Also, if fees are raised significantly, attendance could fall off and defeat the increase.*
- * Fees should be reviewed to ensure they are covering "true costs". For example: the costs for lights should include electricity, replacing bulbs, installation, etc.*
- * Rochester Hills resident, Mr. Carl Schmidt, offered the following comments:*
 - Mr. Schmidt is a long time user of the parks*
 - \$25 is good value if you use the parks often*
 - May be better to concentrate on additional fields for a revenue source rather than vehicle permit fees*
 - Need to look at where you can raise the fee and not impact park attendance*
 - Three adjacent communities, Shelby Township, Troy and Auburn Hills, do not charge for park usage. For a short drive, residents can use those parks without paying a fee*
- * Soccer fields usage time is determined by a lottery system; this year, for the first time, peak times for baseball were also determined by a lottery system.*
- * Currently the fee is \$5 resulting in \$11,000 in revenues. By increasing the fee to \$10*

for the same number of games would double the revenue to \$22,000.

* A graduated increase over three (3) years: \$5 in year one; \$7.50 in year two and \$10 in year three could be considered so teams would have time to incorporate the increase in fees into their charges.

* It was suggested that the youth representatives encourage students to use the park to help increase park attendance.

* There is a need to increase public awareness of the parks.

* Soccer field labor costs are high because full-time personnel maintain the fields as opposed to part-time personnel. This results because soccer season runs longer than baseball season and the Parks Department does not have as many part-time employees in the spring and fall as it has in the summer months.

* It was suggested that the City obtain corporate sponsors for the scoreboard. It was noted that the scoreboard originally cost \$1,500 and the City now receives \$1,500 a year for the scoreboard at the red field. Otherwise the City would need full-time staff to operate and maintain the scoreboard.

The Committee reviewed the proposed changes to the Sport Facilities Fees as follows:

Borden fields 2, 3, 4, 5

- * Resident rate from \$35 to \$45
- * Non-resident rate from \$50 to \$60
- * Adult resident rate \$70 to \$80
- * Adult non-resident rate \$100 to \$110
- * Cost would be pro-rated based on field size

Discussion commenced regarding the difference between lighting for soccer fields and baseball fields including the following points:

* Charge for lighting the soccer fields is \$20 per hour, which includes the parking lot lights. The cost is \$40 per soccer game because the soccer field is used for two (2) hours.

* Actual cost of the lights is \$11.68 per hour.

* Charge for baseball fields is \$10 per hour because there are less fixtures and bulbs than the soccer lights. In addition, the soccer games are held early and late in the season and lighting is needed.

It was noted that the City needs to find a way to decrease the burden of the cost of the parks for the taxpayers. Last year, the City received \$5,147 in revenue for lighting and paid Detroit Energy (DTE) \$5,858 resulting in a loss of approximately \$700.

A motion was made by Raschke, seconded by White, that this matter be Approved.

Whereas, the current field usage fees for Rochester Hills Parks have been unchanged for the past 10 years;

Whereas, the costs for maintaining and scheduling these fields have increased substantially over this 10-year period; and

Whereas, strong demand for our well-maintained sports fields continues to grow;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Leisure Activities Committee

recommends that the Rochester Hills City Council approve the field usage fee increases for 2005 in full size fields and by a prorated amount for smaller fields on a base calculation of a \$10 increase;

Be It Further Resolved, that the field lighting rates be approved at an increase of \$5 per hour.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Duistermars, Dalton, Raschke and White

Absent: Swann

YOUTH COMMENTS

Ms. Kosuda reported that she has surveyed her family and friends regarding the preferred trail surface they would like on the City's portion of the Clinton River Trail. She and her mother have also hiked neighboring trails to study their surfaces. She has received more opinions in favor of an asphalt surface than the other two (2) types.

The Committee commenced a general discussion regarding the three (3) trail surface types currently being surveyed. Mr. Hartner reported that the Friends of the Clinton River Trail have almost completed their analysis of their Internet survey. He will invite them to the November Leisure Activities Committee meeting to present their findings.

Ms. Kosuda also reported that several young teens have mentioned to her that they would like a place in the city to gather with their friends outside of school where they can socialize.

The Committee commenced a general discussion regarding where they gathered as young teens. It was also mentioned that there had been attempts made in past years to create a "teen center" but have failed.

Chairman Duistermars thanked Ms. Kosuda for her comments.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None was presented.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, November 15, 2004 - 6:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Duistermars adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Minutes prepared by Denise Mertz.

Minutes were approved as presented at the _____, 2005 Regular Leisure Activities Committee Meeting.