
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, April 13, 2022

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Kevin Klynstra, Mayor
John Query, Commission Chair
Thom Parker, Commissioner
Sue Lucas, Commissioner
Lynette Lam, Commissioner
*Ashley Kiekintveld, Commissioner (*arrived at 5:30 PM*)
Amy Langeland, Commissioner

GUESTS: Melinda Whitten from MC Smith & Associates

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: Dave Vander Kooi

CITY STAFF: Kevin Plockmeyer, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director
Susan Moore, Administrative Assistant

I. Approval of February 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Thom Parker

Support: Sue Lucas

All in favor, motion approved.

II. Felch Street Cemetery Tree Plan

Melinda Whitten from MC Smith presented a revised informal tree plan for the Commission to consider. This plan features fewer trees and a more structured planting at the entrance. The Commission recommended the following changes:

- Maintain screening to separate developed/undeveloped sections
- Keep the formal planting at the entrance & some sort of planting in the roundabout area
- Fewer trees overall and adopt more of a phased planting approach to the interior of the currently developed area. The Commission wants (the planting) to interfere with the least number of graves. A suggestion was made to utilize the annual Arbor Day tree planting event that has traditionally been held at the Lincoln St. Cemetery at the Felch Street site instead to slowly add in more trees.

III. Huizenga Park Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Improvement Plan

Melinda presented preliminary plans for the next phase of potential improvements to Huizenga Park, including the addition of 2 pickle ball courts plus parking, two options for sand volleyball courts and a connecting trail along BL-196. Over all the Commission loved the plan but would like updated feedback on community interest for volleyball courts before making a decision. There is also the option to put a smaller amount of funds towards improving the existing courts. Funding will dictate which improvements from the plan are ultimately implemented as there are other parks that will be needing attention in the near future.

IV. Lincoln Street Cemetery Historical Recognition

A request has been made to install an informational panel at the Lincoln St. Cemetery. The Commission would like to consider where this panel may be installed before making a final decision (there is already a State of Michigan historical marker at the cemetery). A second request was made to re-install a plaque from the original Van Der Meulen founder's monument onto the new monument. The wording on the plaque is the same as the wording on the monument, therefore the plaque will not be re-installed. The Commission did however request that city staff place a cement urn at the monument.

V. Burial Report / Other Items

- Dave VanderKooi / Public Commentary: Mr. VanderKooi commented/requested information on several items:
 - Sand volleyball court at Huizenga Park: the current courts by his observation are hardly ever used. Supports the proposed BL-196 pathway.
 - There is a drainage issue (flooding after heavy rains) and some dead trees on the eastside of Huizenga Park near the Royal Park condominiums. If the City builds something there (proposed volleyball court area), more drainage would be needed. He asked if the City has/could provide him with any information identifying the property lines of this area. City staff will assist with this.
 - Softball fields at Huizenga Park: Before they were redone, the fields were used quite a bit but now the public is unable to access them due to it being locked (only utilized by Zeeland Recreation).
 - Consider revising the Cemetery Rules & Regulations that currently do not allow certain family members to be buried in purchased lots (i.e., nephew is not a listed family member) or these lots may never be used.
 - New parking lot lights at Huizenga Park shine directly into his condo. City staff will work with him to correct the problem.
 - Timbertown & restrooms. He felt the distance to the new restroom building was too far for the children who frequent this play area/other restroom too close to ballfield parking lot that kids have to walk through. (Mayor Klynstra explained the water connection infrastructure would have been very costly to construct the newer building closer to the play area.)
 - For pedestrians on Perry Street, a pathway connecting from where the dumpster is located in the park to other existing walkways would be a good idea to look into.
 - He asked for copies of the Huizenga Park plans presented at tonight's meeting. Kevin Plockmeyer replied yes however, once the Commission refines these preliminary plans, they would be more beneficial.
- Burial Report:
 - 9 Burials**
 - Lincoln Street Cemetery: 7 (5 resident/2 non-resident)
 - Felch Street Cemetery: 2 (1 resident/1 non-resident)
 - 2 Sales**
 - Lincoln Street Cemetery: 1 (0 resident/1 non-resident)
 - Felch Street Cemetery: 1 (1 resident/0 non-resident)
 - Zero transfers
- Timbertown Donation Plaque: Kevin Plockmeyer asked for the Commissioners recommendation on what to do with this plaque as well as an old Legion Field plaque that have been stored at the City's

Street Maintenance Facility. The Commission would like to give the Timbertown plaque to the Historical Society but would like to see a picture of the Legion Field plaque before making a final decision.

- Z-Bus: Request to expand the summer Z-Bus program to include Huizenga Park stops. The Commission has no issue with this.
- Paw Paw Footbridge Landscaping: Commissioner Thom Parker asked about including butterfly friendly plants. The city is looking to potentially work with the Outdoor Discovery Center for this work.
- Skateboard Park at Huizenga Park: Some areas of equipment in the park are in need of repair. City staff will look into it.
- Hoogland Park Improvements: Once the Commission completes the next stage of improvements at Huizenga Park they can begin to look at Hoogland Park.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 @ 5:00 PM.

RECORDED BY:



Susan Moore, Administrative Assistant

