



**PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
November 22, 2022**

The Parks and Public Works Committee met for Regular Committee Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
City Hall
102 Butler St., Saugatuck, MI 49453.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dean at 10:00 a.m.

Attendance:

Present: Chairman Dean, Committee members Charak, DeJong, Johnson, Kimble, & Roche.

Absent: None.

Others Present: City Manager Heise, Superintendent Herbert, DPW Asst. Supervisor Hardy, Director of Planning, Zoning, & Project Mgmt. Cummins.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by DeJong, second by Roche, to approve the agenda. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from 10/25/22:

Motion by Kimble, second by Johnson, to approve the minutes from the October 25th, 2022, meeting. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments (agenda items only):

- A. **Tom LaFave (non-resident):** Tom spoke regarding the Pickleball courts in Village Square Park. He has docked his boat in the City of Saugatuck for the last 12 years. The pickleball courts are in a great location close to the marina and he and his friends love to walk to Village Square to play Pickleball, but the courts have been neglected and are in disrepair. Tom said that the courts are cracked, both poles are bent, and the net doesn't work. He wanted to bring the topic to the committee in hopes that the courts would be considered for an update.

Review/Discussion: Staff Presentation by City Manager Heise

A. Department of Public Works and Administrative Updates

City Manager Heise provided an update regarding the status of the Private Public Partnership with AT&T at Mt. Baldhead. He explained that AT&T has identified the difficulty of getting to the top of Mt. Baldhead to service their equipment and that they need to get some infrastructure up to the ball head itself. They are willing to work with the City to put infrastructure at the base of the hill. He spoke of the excitement of the possibility of AT&T being willing to put up the money for a structure that could potentially be both a new

bathroom and a utilities closet for the equipment that connects to the antennas up in the dome. There is also potential for new restrooms, putting in facilities for their infrastructure, and running conduit and cable up the stairs which will also need to be replaced soon. They could be a partner on the whole project. AT&T is benefiting the Tri-Community by improving the bandwidth in the area.

The discussion then moved to the Airport Property and the potential of collaborating with Consumers Energy to put the Airport Property to use for things like solar projects, trails around the perimeter, cross-country course, just to mention a few. The committee also discussed that Consumers Energy is interested in the possibility of using the city-owned property near the Dog Park to use as a substation considering it is close to other power infrastructure that they already have installed. They discussed what it would take to allow them to do so. The committee mentioned that if they use this property for things of such, it will keep the Airport property free to do other exciting projects.

B. Creation of Study Groups for Priority Projects (suggestions only):

- a. Airport Property – Kelly Roche, Glenna DeJong, Scott Dean, Jon Vanderbeek, Rick Bauer, Daniel Defranco, Keith Charak, Scott Kierzek
- b. Blue Star Multimodal Path – Nancy Kimble, Holly Leo, Richard Donovan, Daniel Defranco, Jerry Donovan
- c. Park Street – Ruth Johnson, Scott Dean, Jane Underwood, Dave Blanford, Ann Broeker, One Adventure Rep.
- d. Mt Baldhead Improvements – Ruth Johnson, Scott Dean, Keith Charak, Eric Gollanek, Jon Vanderbeek, Chris Clark
- e. Invasive Species – Keith Charak, Nancy Kimble, Brian Talsma, Mike Kinny (suggested by Scott Dean via email)
- f. Village Square & Playground – Glenna DeJong, Kelly Roche, Ruth Johnson, Birdie Holley, Anna Greg

Review Next Steps:

A. Study Group

- a. Cannot deliberate or make decisions. They can only study, gather facts, and make recommendations, subject to the full board having full decision-making authority.
- b. Work with City Staff on initial design ideas.
- c. Perform research and report back to committee.

Public Comments:

Gary Meddler Resident, City of Saugatuck: Gary suggested a moratorium on the color beige & white since the community lives in an art colony and has so many colorful personalities.

Member Closing Comments:

Committee Member DeJong: She is anxious about moving forward if they are going to proceed and have anything ready, especially for the playground. She said that they could organize after City Staff contacts the other “maybes” for the group.

Committee Member Charak – He explained that Ron Wilkins and a few other guys used to dig at the landfill and know a lot about what is out there.

Committee Member Roche – She is really interested in learning about public private partnerships. She thinks that it can be an exciting part of this and is ready to get started.

Committee Member Johnson – She has anxiety too about the timeframe of things, some kind of big things that are happening in a short amount of time. She guesses that they will do their best and go from there.

Committee Member Kimble – She had some questions regarding communication with groups. She said that when the committee first met, they discussed a five-year plan but haven't heard any recent talks about that. Thinks it would be a great idea to set goals for what they want their town to be. She brought up giving more consideration to clearing the sidewalks in the wintertime whether it be the City or the homeowner's responsibility. She then talked about an article from the Commercial Record regarding "Leaving the leaves" and thinks that is a concept that the committee can explore given the amount of leaves that DPW picks up each year.

Chairman Dean – Thought they had a great meeting and appreciates the committee's patience as they sort the kinks out. Explained that now that he has been elected Mayor, his time is limited. Discussed replacing himself on the committee with Helen Baldwin.

Adjournment: *Motion by Charak, second by Roche, to approve adjournment of the meeting. Via voice vote, motion carried 5-0. Chairman Dean adjourned at 11:18 a.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Williams, City Deputy Clerk & DPW Administrative Assistant