

VILLAGE OF HOLLY

PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

April 7, 2021

The regular meeting of the Village Parks Commission of Holly was called to order by Co-Chairperson Sarah McCanney at 7:01 P.M. at <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/82023203374>

Commissioners Present

Gayle Peltonen
Joe Hutchins
Sarah McCanney
Rick Powers
Angie Lemon
Chris Rankin

Staff Present

Jerry Walker
Brian Klaassen
Carol Hammond

Others Present.

Eric Gamble
Steve Sulfaro
Josh Murphy
Chris Summers

Absent Board Members

Joyce Leece

Excused Board Members

At 7:01 p.m., Co- Chairperson McCanney called the meeting to order.

Manager Walker explained the electronic meeting instructions.

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Hammond called the roll.

Peltonen-Holly, MI
McCanney- Holly, MI
Hutchins- Holly MI
Lemon- Holly, MI

CHANGES TO AGENDA:

None

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Motion by Hutchins, support by Lemon to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call vote was as follows:

Voting for: Peltonen, Hutchins, Lemon, McCanney

Voting against: None

Absent: Leece, Powers, Rankin

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Lemon said under board comments, Commissioner Powers is talking about Pinz for Parks. The minutes say we are hoping to sell out at least one night and if we are lucky, we can sell out two nights. She said she does not remember him talking about it being a two-night affair. She said the flyer only talks about one night also. She is not sure where this second night came from. She said he may have said it, she doesn't remember if he said it and she doesn't understand why that's there. She said she

thinks Friday nights are the only nights for fundraisers. She said she doesn't know what that's about.

Co-Chair McCanney said she just messaged Commissioner Powers and he will join the meeting in a couple minutes.

Motion Peltonen, support Hutchins to approve the minutes of March 3, 2021.

Roll call was as follows:

Voting for: Hutchins, Peltonen, McCanney

Voting against: Lemon

Motion fails.

Chairperson Rankin and Commissioner Powers join the meeting at 7:08.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Gamble said this is concerning a conversation on a local Facebook group about 4 weeks ago. The cost of a memorial tree is \$1,000 to have it installed. He said it is in the minutes in the June 5, 2019 meeting that Commissioner Hutchins said it would be \$300 to cover shipping and installation. He said he is wondering where the extra \$700 came from. He talked to a local engraver and it's only about \$1,000 for a metal engraved sign and a post to put it on as well for the tree. He said he does not appreciate his wife being told to jump in a lake for saying the price increase is ridiculous. He said you are public servants and are doing work for the community and he appreciates the time to do this, but you're working for the public and that should be the goal. You shouldn't be insulting them.

OLD BUSINESS

#1. Budget Update

Director Klaassen said he has not met with Manager Walker due to vacations. He said we are in the \$15,000 range still. We are still feeling the effects of COVID. He said there are 2 more budget meetings with council.

#2. Parks Walk Thru and WWAM Update

Chairperson Rankin said WWAM is not answering so they will not be there for spring clean-up. He said they made a long list of items during walk thru. He said they would like to replace the posts on the split rail fence at Waterworks.

Director Klaassen said we still have money in this year's budget. He said he will get pricing for posts and railings.

Commissioner McCanney suggested to have an opening in the fence, so people can cross the road and go over to the lake.

Director Klaassen said he will have another truckload of mulch delivered before the parks clean up.

A discussion was held about getting a couple picnic tables from Lakeside to Waterworks to set up a new picnic area. There was also a discussion about adding grills.

There was a conversation about moving the porta potty to the north side of the parking lot and possibly having it pushed back to the brush line on the grass. It was also discussed

about making the parking lot bigger by squaring it off and pushing it back about 20 feet towards the river.

Commissioner McCanney said she has a list of projects for clean-up day. The concrete pad where the Women's Memorial will be installed, needs to be cleared off, there is a concrete cube that is broken with a tree growing in it. We want to remove the tree and concrete.

Director Klaassen said that may have been used to cap an old well. We need to verify there is not an old wellhead in there.

Commissioner McCanney continued with her list. Clean-up the rivers edge, create new picnic area with grills and extra garbage cans along with planting flowers if possible. She said weed perennial garden and spread mulch. Also, new flower beds on either side of the dam and fresh mulch around the walking trail. She said all this is going to take a small army, we need to share the Facebook event and tell people.

#3. Waterworks Subcommittee Update

Commissioner McCanney said the subcommittee had their first meeting and they discussed visions for the park. They agreed the primary use for the park is enjoyment of the river.

Commissioner McCanney went over an extensive list of projects the subcommittee would like done at Waterworks. She also talked about the members of the subcommittee and their contributions to the committee.

GENERAL BUSINESS

#1. Birdhouse at Lakeside Park

Director Klaassen said he received a call from a resident. There are 3 purple martin houses. He said 2 are in Lakeside and 1 is on private property. He said the gentleman is concerned the sparrows or another invasive species are in the bird houses and he would like the birdhouses cleaned out on a regular basis. The resident wants the other birds evicted.

Commissioner Hutchins said there are 2 kinds of bird in Michigan that demand clean houses. One is the purple martin and the other is the bluebird. He said purple martins' houses are a lot of work and that's why martin houses slide up and down a pole. They must be maintained all the time and because of that, he suggests we get rid of the martin houses.

Chairperson Rankin said we do parks clean-up once a year and he would be okay with pulling down the house and emptying it out at that time. He asked what happens if we clean it out and then another sparrow moves in.

Commissioner Hutchins said then you need to bring the house down, remove the nest and put it back up. He said purple martins like mosquitoes and that's why you put them in an active place like Lakeside Park.

Director Klaassen said an employee did take one down and clean it out this year, but he is not sure of the location of the other one. He

believes the one on private property was put up by Sue Julian's group probably close to 10 years ago. He said he doesn't know if they have a regular maintenance program.

Commissioner Hutchins said he believes the purple martin only nest once a year and sparrows have 3 pledges a year. He said they need to be cleaned out constantly and are a lot of work.

Commissioner McCanney asked what the harm is in letting the sparrows nest there.

Director Klaassen said the resident is concerned that they are an invasive species and have several clutches a year, so he was concerned that when you see a big swarm of birds, they are probably all the same family of sparrows. He said the resident considers them nuisance birds and because they are not native to Michigan, they shouldn't be around. The resident said he took care of them on his own property, but he sees them in the park all the time.

Director Klaassen said we do not have the resources to clean the houses on a regular basis. He said we can clean them up in spring and try to figure out if there's a certain time of year the purple martin nest, and maybe try to get the houses cleaned out before that. We can do a fall clean up and clean everything out again. To try to eradicate them is not feasible.

There was a discussion regarding the meaning of a bird being an invasive species.

Commissioner Peltonen suggested a visit to Cornell website would settle a lot of people's

mind. She said you must search for yourself.

Chairperson Rankin said we will agree to clean them out in the spring. He said he thinks that's a reasonable compromise.

Director Klaassen said he will pass that information along to the resident.

Chairperson Rankin said that Commissioner Leece sent him a letter resigning from Parks. He read the letter into the record.

REPORTS:

Director Klaassen said council has approved an ATV for a fundraiser for fireworks. He said it would be great if park members would get involved and help sell tickets. They are \$10 each or 3 for \$25. The drawing will be at Holly Days so it gives us about 6 months to sell as many tickets as we can. If you are interested, contact Jerry Walker or Debby Bigger. A new roof is being put on the gazebo at Ganshaw. It will be green, so it matches the trim. DPW has started some spring clean-ups in parks and the cemetery.

Director Klaassen said regarding the increase in the memorial trees, a couple years ago, we were not looking at larger caliber tree as we are now, and the larger caliber is going to add to the cost. And we were looking at if we ever had to replace that tree. Every year the cost of a tree will increase. What we talked about was for the lifetime maintenance of the tree. He said about the \$1,000 for the engraved sign, Joe from Calypso hasn't given him any costs. We were putting numbers out there to make sure it was not costing the village anything to plant and maintain these trees. He

said anyone can call DPW and he will discuss it with them.

Commissioner Hutchins said when this was discussed two years ago, it was just the price of the tree, no maintenance. It was also a smaller caliber tree. He said you still need to fertilize and take care of the tree.

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Powers said Pinz for Parks is on April 23rd. He is proud to say Chris and Nicole Rankin are recipients of Pinz family of the year. There will be a nice ceremony and they will be presented with awards. He said to Director Klaassen that he has a donor that will sponsor a team for DPW. He said he has someone who wants to get a memorial bench. He will tell him it is \$1,000. He told the donor it should take 7-10 days.

Director Klaassen said not sure how long it will take, depending on how long the shipping takes. It will be installed as soon as we get it.

Commissioner Powers said we will be doing fundraisers during the summer, including karaoke in the alley. It will benefit the parks and will start up in May.

Commissioner Hutchins asked when zoom meetings will stop. He asked about having them outside, possibly at Crapo.

Director Klaassen said he would have to verify that with Manager Walker. He saw an article that the governor is lifting some restrictions in June. There have been discussions about opening the village offices

and going back to live meetings and it looks like we are doing zoom meetings through July. He said there would be background noise at Lakeside, but Crapo Park doesn't have as much use.

The commissioners agreed they would like to have meetings outside.

Commissioner Lemon said there is a problem with the minutes. Verify with Commissioner Powers that Pinz will only be one night.

Commissioner Powers said it is only going to be one night. He said even when things open, there isn't going to be the participation like there was before. People are reluctant to come out. He said right now we have 12 or 14 teams signed up and we can have 24. He said he originally hoped we could do it for 2 nights. It was wishful thinking.

Commissioner Lemon said thank you for clarifying it.

Commissioner McCanney asked if the slide that is missing at Lakeside is on order and if the other piece missing is on reorder.

Director Klaassen said 2 slides have been replaced and the structure is starting to age. He has not checked to see if it is still available. He said he did remove the climbing apparatus. Not sure if it is still available. He will address it.

Commissioner McCanney said if it is not available, we should look into putting some kid of apparatus there. She has not started planning for Holly Days. She was waiting to see if council was going to approve the car

shows. She said if they aren't going to approve the car shows, she isn't going to be optimistic and start putting in work on Holly Day.

Director Klaassen said there has been a special event application for the car show and it will be on this month's council agenda. He said all the events say they have to follow all current COVID health orders.

Commissioner McCanney said she doesn't see events being approved for the spring and isn't going to start working at soliciting for participation and sponsorships. She said she want to make this committee aware of this because we're responsible for Holly Days. She said if we are going to do Holly Day, we need to get rolling on it.

Director Klaassen said Ladies Weekend was approved and is next weekend.

Chairperson Rankin said the fenced in corral on the platform at Waterworks looks like it is 10 feet bigger than it needs to be.

There was a discussion about the fence on the platform and safety issues for DPW.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Summers, asked how can he get something put on the agenda? Erica Clyde from Oakland County SISMA is willing to talk to the commission. They have projects and have money to spend. April and May, this is the time you can't do much with removing invasive species. Can gravel be raised when you pull out of lot at Waterworks? How about a crosswalk? Great job with bird discussion.

He said he is at the park all the time looking at birds. He is willing to help clean for a year.

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Hammond said we need to revisit the minutes; they were not approved.

Motion by Powers, Support by McCanney to approve the minutes of March 3, 2021.

Roll call was as follows:

Voting for: McCanney, Peltonen, Hutchins, Lemon, Rankin, Powers

Voting against:None

Absent: Leece

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

With nothing further to discuss, Chairperson Rankin adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.
Next meeting 05/05/2021

Chris Rankin, Chairperson



Carol Hammond, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer