

VILLAGE OF HOLLY

PARKS COMMISSION MEETING

January 6, 2021

The regular meeting of the Village Parks Commission of Holly was called to order by Chairperson Chris Rankin at 7:02 P.M. at <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/82859261556>

Commissioners Present

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

Staff Present

Jerry Walker
Brian Klaassen
Carol Hammond

Others Present

Genevieve Rainey
Josh Murphy
Chris Summers
Chief Narsh
Sherlynn Everly
Laurie Lacey

Absent Board Members

Excused Board Members

At 7:02 p.m., Chairperson Rankin called the meeting to order.

Manager Walker explained the electronic meeting instructions.

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Hammond called the roll.

Angela Lemon- Holly MI
Gayle Peltonen- Holly MI
Sarah McCanney-Holly MI
Joe Hutchins- Holly MI
Chris Rankin- Holly MI
Joyce Leece- Holly MI
Rick Powers- Holly MI

CHANGES TO AGENDA:

None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

Voting against: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Commissioner Lemon said we did not excuse Chairperson Rankin from the

October 7, 2020 meeting.

Motion Rankin, support by Lemon to excuse Rankin from October 7, 2020 meeting.

Roll call vote was as follows:

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

Voting against: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Rankin, support by Peltonen to approve the minutes of October 7, 2020 as presented.

Roll call was as follows:

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

Voting against: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sherlynn Everly, said she wants to talk about the trails. She said when she was running for Township Supervisor, there was a lot of chatter about getting the trails off the ground. She is willing to put in the work and would like to put together a "Holly Trail Dream Team". She said Mark Cornwell, a former trustee has offered to help. She is asking for team member from Parks Commission who would be willing to help. She said they need to start by doing research to see what it will take to connect the trails and there is a long way to go to know how much money is

needed. She said she believes she can come back within 3 months and say where to connect the trails and the cost. She said it will be so much better than what we have now.

Chris Summers, said he wanted to thank Brian for the work he puts in. He said it was approved to get rid of the invasive species at Lakeside cemetery. He suggests we join CISMA. He said it stands for Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area. He said about 40 municipalities in Oakland County belong. He explained the programs that CISMA has to offer.

Commissioner Peltonen said she did not think we were finished with Ms. Everly.

Ms. Everly said she could go on and on but would like a couple member to be a part of this and that keeps the loop going. She wants to be ready.

Commissioner McCanney said she would like to know how much time would be involved.

Ms. Everly shared the information she has discovered and what she believes is needed going forward.

Commissioner McCanney and Chairperson Rankin both said they are interested in helping.

OLD BUSINESS

None

GENERAL BUSINESS

#1. Elect Officers

Commissioner McCanney asked if Chairperson Rankin was willing to continue things as they are.

Motion by Powers, support by Peltonen to maintain our chair and co-chair.

Roll call was as follows:

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

Voting against: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

#2. Crapo Park Vision Discussion

Manager Walker said Jerimiah Roberts was supposed to discuss this item, but he was unable to attend tonight. He said Genevieve Rainey who has ran the Farmer’s Market the last few years, and done a fantastic job, in his opinion has a presentation and will fill this agenda item.

Ms. Rainey said she wanted to talk about how the year was. She said only one week was missed in 2020, May 10, due to the pandemic. She said but after that they were able to be open on a limited basis, with only essential products.

Ms. Rainey went over all the 2020 data regarding the market, including the dates it was open, and the number of vendors. She also showed the statistics from the last 3 years. She explained the finances and the

2020 goals.

There was a discussion about the market being turned over to Diana Reagan starting in 2021 and the goals going forward. Ms. Rainey will be available to help with the market in 2021. She said her experience with the market has been very rewarding. Ms. Rainey said Diana’s daughter will be helping with the market.

#3. Event Coordination & Fundraising: 360 Events

Manager Walker said the owners of 360 Events were not able to join tonight. He said what this company does is they come in and run events for communities. He said he was looking at this company for fireworks. He said because of COVID, he does not see how we can go to the small business owner and as them to write checks for the fireworks. He said they run the entire event.

Chief Narsh said he has worked with James and Julie in the past and they take the weight off and provide successful events-professionally run.

Manager Walker said we are talking about fireworks first, but as they get more experience with the Village, they can take on other events. He said fireworks has never really been profitable for the Village, its more or less a service we provide. He said everything would be approved by the Parks Commission and or council. He said tonight he is looking for consensus from Parks for himself and Chief Narsh to get a proposal from 360 Events. He said it will not be for

this year's fireworks. Manager Walker said there will be a proposal. He said Carry Nation is a perfect example. The volunteers faded away and it is no longer an event, He said he does not want fireworks going back on the tax roll. He said this company would come in and run the entire event, with approved parameters.

Chief Narsh explained in detail the process 360 Events use to make the events successful and profitable. He said they listen and work with you, then they crank it up a notch. He said the final say is with council, or parks if it is their event.

Chairperson Rankin said it sounds like a good idea, but how do they get paid?

Manager Walker said it comes in their proposal and if we are interested, they can have them come to a meeting with a mock proposal. He said we can ask just those questions.

There was a discussion regarding how 360 Events gets paid. Chief Narsh said we could call other municipalities that have worked with 360 Events and ask questions.

Chairperson Rankin said the consensus from the commission is to move forward with contacting the company and getting a proposal.

Manager Walker said he met with Holly Motor Sports on Dixie Hwy via zoom and we are looking into raffling off a quad. He said they are willing to become partners and help

market the quad. He said because they are a local business it will be beneficial to them. Manager Walker said they are going to give him a proposal and he will take it to council in February. This will be our major fundraising for the fireworks fund for this year.

#4. Battle Alley Discussion

Manager Walker said the department heads get together a lot and talk about things that would make the village a better place for all of us. He said as we know, Battle Alley is transitioning and one of the positive things, in his opinion, that have occurred is the closer of Battle Alley. It was closed to assist the local restaurants and bars to give people a place to get a carry out meal and then move to a "food court". He said it is a very cool food court because it is in the midst of historic buildings and the lights overhead. He said hundreds of people travel to Battle Alley every year for pictures under the lights and for weddings. He said Chief Narsh said there may be more funding for Battle Alley if it is designated as an urban park. He said if the Parks Commission is interested in that, staff will do the leg work to see what needs to be done and see what the benefits are to it, then present it back to you.

Commissioner Powers said it is a great idea having it fall under parks. He said it worked out well last year when we got to karaoke.

Chairperson Rankin said he has always thought Battle Alley should be a pedestrian area. He said he does have a couple questions

to include in your homework. If the status of Battle Alley is changed to an urban park, how will it affect its designation on the National Register of Historic Places? Also, will we have plans to change it physically, is there any we need to do?

Manager Walker said he does not believe there is something we have to do, but there are probably some things we will want to do. He said in this next week, we are going to ask the DDA board for a recommendation and ask Council for approvals to permanently close Battle Alley to vehicular traffic and make it pedestrian only. He said the next thing we are going to ask the DDA and Council is to consider making Battle Alley, Alley Street as a social district.

Manager Walker explained to the commission that a social district is an area that a municipality can designate, and people can go into restaurants who abut or join the social district and they can buy alcoholic beverages and carry around in the designated area. It can only occur from licensed establishments that get a special license to participate.

Chief Narsh discussed possibilities regarding things that can be done by making Battle Alley an urban park.

Commissioner Hutchins said for years it was political keeping Battle Alley open or closing it. He said close it, lets get it done and move on.

There was a discussion about the Holly Hotel

and that sectioning off parts of the social district are not in the plans.

Chief Narsh explained the legal aspects including the licensing required for the social district and the State of Michigan.

Chairperson Rankin said he agrees that we should look into this, but to keep in mind the concerns about the National Register of Historic Places. He said we need to make sure all these things can coexist.

#5. Budget Discussion

Chairperson Rankin said every January he asks the commission to come up with projects and things we want to do in the parks. He said unless you already have your ideas, please bring them to the meeting in February. He said on his short list is the retaining wall at Crapo Park.

Commissioner McCanney said she would like to get rid of the cyclone fence along the parking lot at Lakeside Park.

Manager Walker said we still have to do the pavilion and kayak locker at Waterworks Park. He said it is an unfinished project. He said he has been talking with Commissioner Powers about doing some in memoriam benches. He said he would like to have some design standards for the types of benches.

Commissioner Lemon said the netting behind the baseball diamond at Cyclone Park is falling. Also, the bags for the dogs are still needed.

Commissioner McCanney said we need to add winter activities.

#6. Spring Cleanup

Commissioner McCanney said we can do a spring clean up as we can social distance in any of our parks.

Commissioner Peltonen said she will reach out to WAMM to see if there is a chance for their help this spring.

Commissioner Lemon asked if we can just do the cleanup with volunteers from Holly, and not use WAMM.

Chairperson Rankin suggested to walk through the parks to decide which park to spend the day.

There was a discussion regarding a date for cleanup. It was suggested to do it around Earth Day. It was tentatively set for April 17. A walk through will be done ahead of the cleanup.

#7. 5 Year Plan

Chairperson Rankin said we need to get a 5-year plan physically on the books. He said we need to have Rowe or Plante Moran do it. He said everyone needs to come up with what they would like parks to work towards over the next five years. He said to please bring that to the February meeting.

REPORTS:

None

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Powers said people are approaching him regarding activities for the alley on Thursday nights this year. He said karaoke was successful last year. Everything done will be fundraisers. It will be every other Thursday starting late April, early May running through September.

Commissioner Leece said she noticed a lot of trees being cut down over the fall and winter and asked if we have a program to replace them since we are a tree city.

Director Klaassen said he has discussed putting money in the budget to start replacing the trees.

Commissioner McCanney said she is wondering if we have any expectations of being able to have any events this year.

Manager Walker said he thinks we need to plan things, but a lot will depend on how quickly the vaccinations roll out. He thinks Music in the Park is possible.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sherlynn Everly said she was upset that Holly Hotel was able to block off the eastern entrance of Battle Alley all summer. She said

ADA standards requirements of 56-inch width was not available and it should not have been allowed. She said asking parks to take over an urban park is a far stretch. She said as a taxpayer, there is enough DDA money and tax money going on into Battle Alley that she does not want one more penny spent. She would like to see more money spent in the other 5 parks.

Commissioner McCanney said she wants to hear for the people who are looking into this about how much money we may be able to get by designating or changing the designations. It could be advantageous to us.

Ms. Everly said she thinks the DDA should run Battle Alley for a few years to see how it all works out.

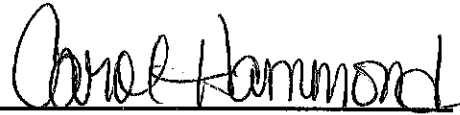
Nicole Edwards, 217 Coghsall, said regarding Battle Alley, there are 3 separate things, historic district, urban park, and social district. She said there will be ordinances and have to make sure that nothing supersedes or falls through the cracks and there is the liability. It is a lot in that small area. She said she thinks our energy should go towards the unfinished projects at Waterworks and Crapo and Lakeside Parks need some TLC.

Genevieve Rainey, 134 Park Ave, said she is still interested in doing a memorial bench and tree.

ADJOURNMENT:

With nothing further to discuss, Chairperson Rankin adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.
Next meeting 02/03/2021

Chris Rankin, Chairperson



Carol Hammond, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer