

**MONROE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

January 22, 2014

CITY HALL, SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 pm by Vice - Chairman Knapp.

Present: Vice - Chairman Garry Knapp, Secretary Cheryl Miller, Commissioners Bob Cebina, Mary Minney and Karen Feldman.

Excused: Lucie Fortin

Unexcused: Henry Jones

Also present: Loretta LaPointe, Recreation Manager and Michele Rinne, Recreation Department Aide.

Guests: Caitlin Jackson of Beckett & Raeder.

The Commission welcomed new member Karen Feldman to the board.

Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2013 and December 18, 2013.

Vice –Chairman Knapp called for approval of the November 21, 2013 meeting minutes. Motion made by Cheryl Miller to accept the minutes, supported by Bob Cebina. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice –Chairman Knapp called for approval of the December 18, 2013 meeting minutes. Motion made by Mary Minney to accept the minutes, supported by Cheryl Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Recreation Manager's Report

1. **Recreation Plan** - Loretta updated the Commission that the plan is in the final stages and that Caitlin Jackson of Beckett & Raeder, will be attending the meeting to make any changes that the Commission would like to make, or to answer any questions regarding the Recreation Plan.
2. **Stewardship Monroe** – Loretta has been working with Milward Beaudry at MPACT and has recorded the Stewardship Monroe presentation in a PowerPoint format to be played on a regular basis on the public channel. There has also been an article in the Monroe evening news and that people are showing interest.
3. **River Raisin Battlefield** – Loretta met with Scott Bentley to discuss the Recreation Plan. Scott and Loretta will be working together on recreational activities that could streamline customer service and to review the park rules and regulations to insure that visitors and residents are receiving the same information at the City, the Nation Battlefield and Sterling State Park. Scott and Loretta also discussed unifying signage.
4. **Movie in the Park** – Loretta spoke on collaborating with the Downtown Development Authority to move the 2014 Movie in the Park downtown, close to Loranger Square and to share the costs. This will allow the movie to return as an annual event and benefit the community as a whole.

New Business

A. Recreation Systems Plan Update, Caitlin Jackson, Beckett & Raeder, Inc.

Caitlin Jackson met with the Commission to go over the Parks section of Recreation Systems Plan. Since the plan is in the final stages, the commission discussed any changes to additions that they may want in the plan.

Loretta asked that the commission read the duties that were listed and if there is a need to add anymore duties.

Commission Feldman spoke with residents of the Lavender Park area and she stated that the residents say they are using the tennis courts and that we should have the courts updated instead of removing them. The Commission has decided to put any updates off until 2015 so they will have time to investigate how often they are used.

The Commission wants to add language to the Recreation Plan that will state that "No major changes will be made to parks without the neighbors knowing". This would be only for major changes, not cosmetic.

Caitlin reminded the Commission that the Recreation Plan needs to be submitted to the State by the end of February and that City Council will need to approve the plan at their February 18th meeting. The Commission will have a special meeting on February 12th at 5:30 pm to approve the Recreation Plan after additions that were added after this meeting.

Commissioner Comments

No commissioner comments

Motion to adjourn made by Bob Cebina, supported by Mary Minney.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.