

Parks Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 11, 2013
6:00 p.m., Council Chambers



City of South Haven

1. Call to Order by Reinert at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Cobbs, Comeau, Moore, Toneman, Reinert
Absent: Fitzgibbon

Reinert requested that Moore introduce himself.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Toneman, second by Cobbs to approve the June 11, 2013 regular meeting agenda as presented.

All in favor. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes – May 14, 2013

Motion by Cobbs, second by Toneman to approve the May 14, 2013 regular meeting minutes as written.

5. Public Comments and Inquiries Concerning Items not on the Agenda

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

6. South Beach Entrance/Exit Sign

Gildea reviewed the background information regarding the signs. Toneman asked for and received clarification on the number of signs and where they will be located. Comeau asked what size the signs are and Gildea responded with measurements. Moore expressed concern regarding the size of the signs.

The board discussed the pros and cons of the wording "Entering Paid Parking" noted on the entrance signs. The board made several suggestions regarding how to note that the paid parking is seasonal.

Moore asked for information regarding the material the signs are made of and the cost of the signs. Moore suggested an alternative material. Gildea explained the rationale for the material used and the graffiti-resistant paint used on the surfaces.

Reinert asked about the hours and beach rules that are on the current signs. Gildea noted that she has already ordered and installed informational signs that have those details.

Toneman suggested taking the signs down during winter to make them last longer.

Reinert asked how the South Beach improvements were funded, and Gildea noted that the improvements were mostly paid for with a grant. Reinert expressed that the cost of the signs seems small compared to value the city got with the grant.

Comeau indicated his approval of the sign.

Moore asked for details regarding the bid process. Gildea noted that three (3) sign companies bid on the signs.

Reinert explained the Parks role in the sign approval process.

Motion by Comeau, second by Moore recommend to City Council that they consider approving the purchase and installation of two new entry/exit signs, designed by Pat Cornelisse, for South Beach.

Yays: Cobbs, Comeau, Moore, Reinert

Nays: Toneman

6. Dyckman Beach Access Entrance Area

Gildea noted that she has received frequent complaints about the look and function of this access and she entirely agrees with those complaints. Improvements being suggested include:

1. Removal of the chain link fence
2. Move the entrance sign so it does not obstruct the view of the lake from Dyckman Avenue
3. Widen the entrance to allow for two-way traffic, which will involve some additional paving
4. Remove some sand and do some minor landscaping.

After a comment by Moore regarding the sign in the parking lot noting that this is a 4-way stop, the group discussed and Gildea agreed to place "4-way stop" signs to other three stop signs.

Reinert noted that Dyckman is a very busy street and a little facelift to that park would be favorable. Gildea noted that most of the work will be done in-house, including some pavement work.

Reinert asked if this is a good time to look at updating the signage at all the beach parks. Gildea noted that at the accesses she needs to limit signage due to size restrictions. Gildea noted that several of the beach access signs have been very recently updated to reflect changes in the beach parking pay systems.

Moore noted that there are several signs nearer to the beaches. Gildea agreed that there are many signs at our beaches but they are mostly to do with safety. After discussion of the addition of safety signs, call boxes and a flag system being a requirement of a legal settlement, Comeau expressed concern that these actions constitute the city assuming a legal duty which will open the city up to more lawsuits. Reinert noted that she believes the out-of-court settlement has already happened. Moore asked who is determining the flag color. Comeau asked whether City Council approved this agreement.

Toneman inquired whether there is a way-finding sign to point people to the North Beach on the Dyckman access corner, which Gildea noted to check into. Toneman suggested that a directional sign would be helpful for out-of-towners here for the first time.

Moore questioned the lack of numbers on handicap spaces in Dyckman Park, which Gildea clarified by noting that persons with handicap stickers or plates may park free of charge, so the handicap spaces are not included in the numbering system.

Reinert called for further discussion or a motion.

Motion by Toneman, second by Cobbs, to recommend that staff improve the Dyckman Beach Access area with the changes proposed by City staff.

7a. Commissioner's Comments.

Reinert introduced this section as a new addition to the regular Parks agendas.

Cobbs: None

Toneman: None

Comeau: Residents have asked whether there is going to be development of the land located between the two stairwells leading to the South Beach. Gildea noted that the city applied for a grant to purchase that property but she is not sure at what point the negotiations are.

Moore: He played Disc Golf at a Saugatuck park and thinks South Haven should look into creating something similar. Moore says he has spoken to Lisa at the tourist bureau, the mayor and Gildea. After a question regarding cost to players, Moore said there was no charge. The park constituted eighteen (18) holes on thirty (30) acres of bad land (cactus growing on it) with no mowing. Moore noted that such a park can use any kind of land and he thinks it could be a tourist draw. Asked where he should go to present the idea.

Gildea will speak to the city manager but noted that there is no place in the city where there is thirty (30) acres available. Moore asked about the city doing something in an adjacent township. Moore will talk with the city manager and try to sell the idea. Moore asked where the twenty (20) acres were donated to the city to which Brandy suggested that perhaps he was referring to Pilgrim Haven. The group discussed SHARP and SHARA.

8. Adjourn

Motion by Comeau , second by Toneman to adjourn at 6:53 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom
Recording Secretary