

**MINUTES
MARSHALL CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, January 8, 2020**

In a regular session, Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, Council Chambers, 323 West Michigan Avenue, Marshall, Michigan, the Marshall Planning Commission was called to order by Chair Davis.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chair Davis, Commissioners Burke Smith, Banfield, McNiff, Reed, and Schwartz

Members Absent: Commissioners Collins, Rodgers, Zuck and Council Liaison Metzger

Staff Present: Trisha Nelson, City Clerk & Planner

AGENDA

MOTION by McNiff, supported by Burke Smith to accept the agenda for the Wednesday, January 8, 2020 as submitted. On a voice vote; **MOTION CARRIED.**

MINUTES

MOTION by Banfield, supported by Burke Smith, to accept the minutes from the December 11, 2019 regular meeting. On a voice vote; **MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Chair Davis opened the public hearing on the Planning Commission Draft Capital Improvement Plan 2020-2026. Hearing no comment, the public hearing was closed.

Chair Davis opened the public hearing on the 2020-2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Hearing no comment, the public hearing was closed.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION by Banfield, supported by Burke Smith to recommend the Planning Commission Draft Capital Improvement Plan 2020-2026 to City Council. On a voice vote; **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOTION by McNiff, supported by Reed to recommend the 2020-2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan to City Council.

Justin Miller, Superintendent of the Recreation Department, stated that he had been working on the Master Plan for around a year. In August surveys were sent out to 3,500 people over a variety of different methods and that over 400 were returned. The surveys, along with City Council's Vision and Goals, were then used to create the goals for the Master Plan.

Miller stated that goal one of the Master Plan was to make Marshall walkable and bikeable. To accomplish this goal, he would like to see a topographical map drawn up to see where there are sidewalks missing to make it safer for people to walk places. Goal two is maintain and enhance existing parks and facilities. This would include updating the Riverwalk and other parks in the city. Goal three is to use volunteer groups to improve community parks. Miller stated that the Ketchum Park Advisory Committee would be the model for this and that the idea is to get other park committees to follow their lead. Goal four is recreation program development. Miller stated that the survey stated that people would like to see more competitive youth sports and more adult and senior activities. He further stated that they are looking to partnerships with area pools for offering swim lessons and are creating more opportunities for outdoor recreation. Davis questioned if disc golf was included in the plans. Miller stated that there is currently a six hole course at Ketchum Park. Burke Smith stated that there have been several Eagle Scouts who have looked into creating a disc golf course in town over the years, but there hasn't been the funding to support it.

Miller stated that goal five of the Master Plan is develop recreational opportunities and facilities that promote an active lifestyle. Miller further stated that 89% of those surveyed supported the creation of a recreation facility in town. This goal would also include the creation of a dog park, splash pad and pickleball courts if the appropriate places and funding can be found. Goal six is better usage of City Parks for programming and events. Miller stated that the Youngish Professionals are a good example of this with their concerts at the fountain in the summer, and that he is currently looking in to the possibility of doing a movie in the park as well.

Reed questioned how the budget compares to those of similarly sized municipalities. Miller stated that it is similar to others as their budgets are generally in the \$400,000-\$450,000 range. McNiff questioned what a recreation facility would look like. Miller stated that it would ideally have basketball courts, a track, and facilities for senior and children's programming among other things. Burke Smith stated that it sounds similar to the former Marshall Athletic Center, which never seemed to be used. Miller stated that the recreation department was not allowed to use it to run the majority of their programs by the building management. Banfield questioned the difference between parks and recreation. Miller stated that they are two separate departments within the city and that the recreation department is only responsible for the upkeep of the athletic fields as far as parks. Banfield questioned how long the township has been allowed to be part of the board. Miller stated that it has been that way his entire career. Banfield questioned if any money comes in from the township. Miller stated that they do not have a millage that supports the departments, but that they pay higher participation fees when they participate in recreation programs. Davis stated that the current board is made up of all City residents and that only the Brook's Nature Area Board has anyone from the township on it.

Banfield questioned if it was common practice to present a budget deficit for the department. Miller stated that he presents a balanced budget, but that occasionally it gets changed by the finance department. Nelson stated that if there is a budget deficit that there is a fund balance that council uses to cover that deficit. Miller stated that the department does not touch the general fund, and that any deficit is covered by a recreation fund. Davis thanked Miller for coming and for listening to the concerns of the commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Banfield questioned what was going on with the former Backroad's Saloon property. Nelson stated that there is a Joint Planning Commission meeting scheduled for January 14 to discuss the new application submitted by Stahlburg for the zoning of the property. Nelson further stated that the new request will have it zoned I1 exclusively for Marihuana uses, otherwise it would revert back to a B4 zoning district. Banfield questioned how they are able to do that. Nelson stated that there is a state

statute that allows for conditional rezoning and that if it works well, a plan can be made to adopt it into the City Ordinance. Schwartz questioned what it would be zoned for. Nelson stated that it would allow any marihuana use that is allowed by ordinance in the I1 district. Nelson further stated that the zoning amendment is set to go before council in February.

PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT ON AGENDA

None

REPORTS

Trisha Nelson stated that she received an e-mail from Commissioner Collins stating that she is still wheelchair bound, but is hoping to regain her strength and see everyone soon.

Chair Davis stated that MAEDA lost Rebecca DeFinta and that they were currently looking into someone to replace her position as the tourism coordinator. He stated that the title of the position doesn't encompass the complete scope of work as in addition to tourism the position also coordinates several special events throughout the year, and that it will require a lot of organizational skills.

ADJOURN

Planning Commission adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Michelle Eubank