

## Minutes

Parks, Recreation and Senior Services Advisory Board  
Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 7:00p.m.  
Leo Mahany/Harold Menninger Senior Community Center  
3500 Marais Ave  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

1. Meeting called to order @7:00PM
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes;
  - Becca made motion;
  - Commissioner Macey 2nd
  - passed unanimously
3. City Commission Report
  - ARPA Presentation at the last Commission Meeting
  - ARPA Plan was approved to move forward to next stage
  - \$.5 Million was approved for Senior Center improvements
    - Purchase lap-tops to use on site or check out
    - Improvements to make bathrooms ADA compliant
    - Floors updated
    - Create a coffee bar
    - Kitchen upgrades
  - Upgrades to VFW Park
    - Add bio-swales
    - Add plants to Campbell side and some on other side
  - Still not 100% approved and Parks team is preparing proposals to submit for consideration
  - \$1.5 million approved for Community Center; looking to partner with YMCA; details and funding is still being worked on
4. Public Comment
  - Tim Perry -
    - looking to create Bicycle Day Royal Oak
    - Has created routes for 3/6/11/14 mile routes
    - Routes will only cross 12 & 13 mile road
    - Will have no street closings or barriers
    - Route will be marked by colored flour
    - Would like to have selfie stations along route
    - Free family event
    - Tim would like to be appointed as the Route Coordinator
  - Mike Ripinkski
    - Support Chamber of Commerce event in Centennial Commons
    - Chamber has had a long-standing relationship with Board
  - Janice Wegman

- Advocated for a stand-alone Senior Advisory Board
- 5. Business
  - National Junior Art Honor Society Art Garden proposal
    - Art Park Committee presented proposal to add a 15' art garden on the Royal Oak Middle School property
    - The committee members will be creating the art and selecting the plants
    - Will be using native plants that also good for pollinators (i.e. Lavender, Daisies, Milkweed and Forget-me-nots)
    - Have received funding from multiple sources (i.e. Frenz & Sons, Woodward Corners, Hollywood Market, parents, etc.)
    - Art is being created from recycled materials
    - Parks and Rec committed to providing compost, mulch and signage
    - Recommended group reach out to:
      - Nature society
      - Art Commission
      - Bee group
      - Chamber of Commerce offered space at Royal Oak in Bloom
      - Farmer's market
      - Senior Center Garden Group
    - Advised if once they have reached out to groups if there is funding or additional needs to come back to Advisory Board for consideration
  - Senior Center Report
    - ARPA Upgrades
    - Two trips planned (1) Turkeyville and (2) Casino
    - March 14, 2023 having a Elvis impersonator
    - Recently added a 2nd ROSES Aid to provide coverage for all week
    - With latest addition Senior Center is fully staffed
    - Smoke damage from fire was minimal and only needed to clean air ducts
    - ARPA funds covered most of large items on wish list
  - Staff Report
    - ARPA Funds -
      - working on plans for hard court surface updates
      - using the Master Plan to help prioritize projects to submit for use of these funds
      - Golf course would be more than the funds available
    - Arboretum
      - Received a \$250K donation/grant from the Erb Family Foundation
      - Will be working with McKenna to create renderings for upgrades to park
      - Money will be used to cover:
        - Complete Michigan Native plant collection
        - Signage
        - Connecting to Tenhave park
        - Creating a space for hosting educational programming

- Storage shed
      - Invasive species treatment
      - Accessibility = benches and path
    - Asked if there is ways to make signage accessible visually and audibly
    - Dedication will be held during Arbor Day celebration April 27, 2023 at 10:00AM
  - Recycling in Park
    - As directed by City Commission looking to add recycling bins to park
    - May look to add refillable water stations at some parks that are already equipped with plumbing - promote recycling and clean things
    - Adding new \$1,800 cans to downtown area
    - Working with the EAB to add signage to help with education about recycling
  - Michael asked about Ice Rink
    - Have not received a final report
    - Need to consider cost of time and resources to lay down sod and time till use again
  - Centennial Commons - Summer Concert Series
    - Shelly Kemp presented two events that will be hosted in the park this summer
    - Summer Concert Series
      - Starting on 7/6-8/17 with a rain date of 8/24
      - Family friendly event with no cost to the city
      - Each week will be a different theme
      - Will be bringing in porta-johns with sinks along with a roof to go over platform area
      - DDA supported with sponsorships from Henry Ford and Coreweill
    - Royal Oak Live
      - 6/24-6/25 from 1:30-8:00 PM
      - Working with Alexander Zonjic to curate jazz/funk/r&b performers
      - Will have artists booths and food trucks on Troy & 3rd
      - Will not be pulling alcohol permits to promote local businesses in social district
    - Both events will be posted on Chamber website and social media with all details
6. Items Not on the agenda
  - Michael
    - attended the Royal Oak Historical event/fundraiser for the Hamner Finch park
    - approximately 70-80 people in attendance
    - very interesting and
    - April 12, 2023 city is hosting a Robert's Rule training at City Hall

- Hannah - nothing
  - Commissioner Macey
    - Asked for an update on the Bees
      - Aaron spoke to the Bees in the D group and has a better understanding of practices
      - Will be keeping hive in Normandy OaksO
      - Open to adding more hives and working with Amanda
    - Katie Macey sophomore project
      - Took on adding milkweed gardens to VFW park
      - Working with Aaron to create plan
      - Will be the template for creating a pathway through the city
      - Metro Detroit Youth Club will be taking on as a project to help with maintenance
  - Joe
    - Bike Day
      - Previously organized Northwood Slow Roll
      - Has been working with Tim on how to bring Royal Oak Bike Day to fruition
      - Asked to create a sub-group to work on planning with Tim
      - Motion by ???; second by ??? = passed unanimously
      - Sarah & Joe to work with Tim and then bring back formal recommendation to board in April or May
  - Sarah
    - Batting cages - when is the contract complete? Answer: in the next year or two; one of the spaces being looked at for a community center
    - Dog Park - in the application rules it has an unmonitored email address - Aaron to update to [DPS@romi.gov](mailto:DPS@romi.gov)
  - Becca
    - Hamner Finch Park - is there a way to make the park more appealing while fundraising for the sculpture
    - Potential candidate for ARPA proposals to create walking path and add trees
  - Sue - nothing
7. Upcoming events
- Arbor Day Celebration on April 27, 2023
  - Park clean up - last weekend of April
8. Adjournment
- Motion by Becca; second by Joe and passed unanimously



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