

DEXTER VILLAGE PARKS COMMISSION

April 15, 2008
Regular Meeting

Alan Green called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. at the Village Offices, 8123 Main Street, 2nd Floor.

Present: Green, Jovanelly, Kepler, Coy and Semifero

Absent: Henkemeyer

Have one vacancy.

Approval of the Minutes- March 18, 2008 Regular Meeting minutes. – Approved with changes.

Moved Kepler to approve the minutes with changes, support Coy.

Voice Vote: Unanimous Motion Carried

Approval of the Agenda – Approved as submitted.

Moved Semifero to approve as submitted, support Kepler.

Voice Vote: Unanimous Motion Carried

Public Hearings

None

Citizens Wishing to Address the Commission

There were eighteen young adults along with one adult who came to address the Commission regarding their concern for the need for a skate park in the village. Some of the group spoke and these are their comments:

Billy Elder, 8525 Orchard Road. States that in the Dexter Community Schools not all sports are getting recognition. There is no place for skaters to skate and have fun. If they skate in public they risk getting ticketed and/or their boards taken away. He stated they need a skate park so they can skate in peace.

Anthony Maisano, 7539 Lake. Stated that there are baseball fields, football fields but since the skaters are not a school sport there is no designated area for them to participate in their sport of choice.

Coy interjected and posed the question to the group, what is it that they want to have.

Alex Tachin, 7780 Kookaburra Ct. Suggested Warrior Creek Park as a good location to place a skate park. Would have the police department and fire department close by to keep an eye on things along with being trained if an emergency were to arise. Also suggested hiring a company to design a park. Stated that the other skate parks are too far away.

Elder. Suggested having kids sign a waiver. Also, would like this park to have stairs, rails, half pipes. Thought they (the skaters) could organize and raise money for this maybe through the school or an after school project.

Tim Stoddard, 7964 Grand Street. Stated the decent parks are far away, i.e., Jackson and Howell. Also, mentioned Grand Haven has a good one. Driveways are not sufficient for skating, need obstacles.

Alex Queen, 7151 Ryan. Knows the big problem would be getting money and that maybe they could do a fund raiser at the school. Possibly could see if the CSL (Community Service Leader) teacher would help them organize to raise money around town.

Stoddard. Wants to see a park that is professionally built, concrete (thought it would cost about \$10 per foot). Decent size park would cost around \$30-\$40K, does not think they could raise this much money.

Tachin. Stated that it may cost a lot but it is an investment in the community. The kids have money and will spend their money at the local businesses.

Green asked a question to the group as a whole, are you in a position and organized enough to get a petition together and have it signed stating that you want a skate park. Stated, that we (the Parks Commission) have been researching skate park information and invited the group back next month to hear our findings. Green went onto explain that it would be our findings and no decision will have been made. Stated, that we do not have the authority to spend money but rather we make recommendations to the Village Council.

Robert Wittenberg, 4302 Disner, Thought in order to keep the interest of the park they could volunteer lessons and speak to kids about skating.

Zack Eisenlord, 3860 Valentine Road, Suggested by having a skate park could open up career paths for some kids and they could become pro.

Andy McDonagh 7414 Wheeler Road, By having skateboarding it keeps them out of bad activities like drugs.

Bishop asked if they (the skaters) would police each other. The kids randomly replied that it would be their park and they would not allow vandalism.

Green stated that a project like this would need community support. He asked if they could anticipate the types of concerns adults will have?

Wittenberg, Parents will be concerned about kids getting hurt and the money issue. But it will work out in the long run by helping kids not doing stupid things.

Eisenlord, (Village) afraid parents are going to sue.

Stoddard, Concerns of hoodlums dealing drugs, but they (the skaters) will police it. Want to have good people at the park. Community and businesses will like it since they want them to stay off their property.

Tony Godin, 7727 Huron River Drive, (this is the adult that came with the group, he had some comments written out to share) He came to Michigan from California where he used to skate all the time. Has seen a lot of good ideas for example having a pipe with a slot in it for donations to use to keep the skate park maintained.

Why Build a Skate Park:

1. It will create a community space.
2. Prevent skate related damage to private property
3. Expand park usage to a larger group.
4. Establish the community as an action sports community. Think Dexter First, financial growth

The skate parks are not just used by skateboarders but also, scooters, bikes and rollerblades. If kids help with the building of the park they can apply math skills in the process.

Kids want parks that are maintained and not small. They don't want graffiti, want to help others, are friendly to all ages and teach others. They want to be part of the community happenings.

Three major items needed for a skate park:

1. Jumping (pipe transfers)
2. Freestyle Area
3. Grinding

Reports and Communications

- A. Chair.
 - a. Skate park Update.
Will have findings from calling other municipalities organized for the May meeting.
- B. Commissioners and Ex Officio. Semifero stated that the basketball court and fence was signed off on at the Village Council meeting.
- C. Community Development Officer Report – Included in packet.
 - a. Play Court Project Update. Fencing will be 5K for 150 feet. It was discussed how the 150 feet should be laid out.
 - b. Ryan Drive Update. No update.
Molly Wade from the cub scouts contacted Bishop looking for a project for her pack. Only suggestion at this time would be to pick up trash in the village.

Old Business

- A. Resolution of Support for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of HCMA trail – Recommendation on potential pledge to the project. Bishop received a call from the County Parks Commission. The road commission and the village could apply for enhancement funds for the west side Connector. (See page 13)

Green makes a resolution for support of the border to border trail, support Coy.

Voice Vote: Unanimous Motion Carried

- B. Smith Woods Donation Agreement (agreement to be sent via email/hardcopy to be provided at meeting)

Coy moves to make a donation agreement, support Kepler.

Voice Vote: Unanimous Motion Carried

- C. Play Equipment Inventory. Needs were added to the list. This will be put with the annual budget for yearly review.

Bishop to see if the Lions will do the needed maintenance on their gazebo on Dexter-Ann Arbor Road.

New Business

- A. Review of Mill Pond Park Scope of Work – JJR and ECT

Citizens Wishing to Address the Commission

None

Proposed Business For Next Meeting

- A. Community Park Play Court
- B. Recreation Plan
- C. Mill Creek
- D. Skate park Report

Adjournment

Moved Jovanelly to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 P.M., support Kepler.

Voice Vote: Unanimous Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Jovanelly
Parks Commissioner

Filing Approved 5-20-08