

City of New Baltimore
Parks & Recreation Commission
Public Hearing &
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2008
6:00 PM

Chairman Larry Gingas opened the public hearing of the Parks & Recreation Commission at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Gingas, Cates, McDonald, Myers, Wolschleger, Levis
Absent: Steiner, Mellon-Bunn, Glaza (formerly Littlejohn)

Also present were Councilwomen Susan Burkhardt, Florence Hayman and Parks & Recreation Director Mike Hoffard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive comments regarding the proposed amendment to the Parks & Recreation Master Plan to include a Harbor and a splash zone near the children's playscapes in the Walter & Mary Burke Park.

The following residents expressed to the Commission their concern and disagreement to include a Harbor in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan:

Jacqueline Walters 51111 Maria Street, New Baltimore addressed the Commission as to why they would get into such a plan before addressing the fact the Recreation Center lacks a items such as air conditioning and a baby changing station in the indoor pavilion at the City Park. Ms. Walters felt that having a harbor where boaters can stay on their boats up to 10 days creates more noise pollution and she felt that the City shouldn't be in the position to use taxpayers money during the current difficult economic times, using their money for a harbor and as a result the residents will lose the visual aspects of the bay with no positive benefit to families first and that the City's focus should be on the families of this community first. She went on to say that she feels there are no guarantees even if the harbor were constructed that businesses in the downtown would flourish from a harbor. Ms. Walters asked the Commission to vote down the plan for a harbor.

Bret Longford 50421 Lagae, New Baltimore addressed the commission and expressed that he also opposes the Harbor. His concern is the maintenance costs after a grant is received, who would bear the cost, the taxpayers of the community. His concerns are why reasons would boaters would want to come to New Baltimore, what City designation would bring them here. He said that the use of the harbor in Lexington has been falling for the last two years and that people are not boating like last year. He questioned whether the Police Department has enough staffing to the handle the additional people or would more officers need to be hired. Mr. Langford questioned if in fact a harbor master would be required and if so where would the funding come from and would taxes be

raised to cover this cost. Mr. Langford opposes a harbor because he feels there is no guarantee of cost to the taxpayers.

William McClearen 36554 Marquardt, New Baltimore addressed the Commission in opposition against the proposal, he has been a resident of the City for a long time, he enjoys bicycle riding, the elegance of the City Park as it is today as it is completely full on the weekends with no place to park currently and the over flow of parking into the Library parking lot. He also expressed his concern of the downtown possibly being built into condo units as parking is a problem now, this scenario would only create a bigger parking issue for the downtown.

Terry Crawford 50427 Lagae Street, New Baltimore addressed the Commission as he does not understand the big push for a harbor and the Commission can consider turning the City Park into a enterprise. He feels that the harbor will actually harm the existing downtown businesses as a harbor will turn year round businesses into seasonal businesses. He is a boater and he feels that unless the City turns the harbor into a “jobby nooner” type atmosphere, if that’s what the City really wants for the community. He is opposed to the harbor as he believes it will take away from the family atmosphere the City has created with the new beach expansion, he feels it is completely out of line and he feels it makes no sense fiscally to the City and more importantly to the taxpayers of the City.

Tom Hemp 35764 Bal Clair, New Baltimore addressed the Commission, he is in favor of a harbor as it will only add to the City, he feels that boaters from the area will come into downtown as he is a boater and boaters are always looking for wine & cheese shops. He completely supports the idea as he feels it would definitely be a benefit to everyone.

Lois Pierson 36984 Highview Street, New Baltimore addressed the Commission and she is 100 percent behind a harbor for the City. She said that the downtown needs something and the harbor is just the ticket to make it thrive and flourish.

Resident from 50834 Holt Street, New Baltimore addressed the Commission; he supports the harbor as it will bring life and energy to the City itself.

Resident from 54047 Atherton, New Baltimore addressed the Commission she supports the harbor and wants the City Officials to investigate a harbor and asked the Commission place it into the City’s master plan for the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Rudy Daniels 37590 Main Street addressed the Commission and advised that she has heard the City Park has to remain open to the general public and cannot become a closed park because the City accepted grant funding. Rudy advised the Commission that there is (20) twenty year expiration on grant money and the City might want to look into this. She is in support of including the harbor into the City’s master plan for the Parks & Recreation. She advised that with the new water plant and the wastewater plant project the taxes in the City are high and that the City needs more businesses for the better tax base. She said that something needs to be done and that including the harbor into the plan would allow the City to research the harbor and it’s costs and benefits to the City and its residents.

impression that the Parks & Recreation Commission had approve the fencing prior to the City Council's approval She suggested keeping the continuity of the aesthetics of the existing fencing along the front of the City park by approving the proposed wrought iron fencing. Commissioner Myers had the same concern as Councilperson Burkhardt.

Motion by Glaza, second by Levis to approve the wrought iron fencing adjacent to the new swim area as proposed on the property line.

All voting yes.

Opposing: none

Motion carried.

Miscellaneous:

Commissioner Myers was concerned with the increase of visitors to the City Park, he likes the open beach and he would like to see more police presence and visibility throughout the day.

Commissioner McDonald also likes the new beach area and advised that he felt there is not enough police presence.

Commissioner Levis informed the Commissioners that police cadets are stationed in the City Park to allow for more visibility.


Councilperson Burkhardt suggested to Mike Hoffard to look into offering a new dance program during the summer months to having dancing in the City park in the evening and renting a portable dance floor as this would be an excellent addition to the park programs offered by the City. She said that residents expect the City to provide these types of programs.

Councilperson Hayman expressed her thanks and gratitude to Cindy Paparelli and the entire Ride the Wave Committee for the outstanding job they have done by the events they have sponsored and the addition of the farmer's market to the community.

Max Plante, Chairman of the kayak events advised that as of today he has not entries for the next kayak event, but he expects to receive applications any day now.

Motion by Myers, second by McDonald to adjourn at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Marcia Shinska
City Clerk