

**City of New Baltimore**  
**Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Held at the New Baltimore City Hall**  
**And Via Telephone Conference**  
**Regular Meeting – August 5, 2021**  
**6:00 PM**

Notice is hereby given that the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting of the City of New Baltimore will be held in person and by telephone conference. In person public participation will be allowed or public may phone in using the following information:

Topic: August Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting  
Time: August 5, 2021 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88483100591>

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Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Public Discussion: This time is set aside for public comments for anyone who wishes to address the Commission. All comments must be addressed to the Chair.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 1, 2021 Regular Meeting

Approval of Parks & Recreation Director's Monthly Report – July 2021

Approval of Agenda

A. Old Business:

1. Burke Park Improvements Discussion
2. Anchor Bay Aquatic Center Lease Discussion

B. New Business:

1. July Event Recaps
2. Burke Park Playscape Subcommittee Discussion
3. AYSO Region 195 Partnership
4. Trick or Treat On Washington Street Discussion
5. September Meeting Discussion

Miscellaneous Items

Next meeting: Thursday, September 9\* at 6:00pm at City Hall.

\*Dependent upon discussion

Adjournment

# **Parks and Recreation Commission**

## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

### **July 1, 2021**

Chair Wolschleger called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 6:00pm.

#### **Roll Call:**

Present: Michelle Anulli, Amber Laske, Joe Glinski, Eric Haydamack, Karen Winter, Dawn Wolschleger, Mike Zoli and Director Tim Novak

Absent: Amber Laske

Also in Attendance: Mayor Dupray, City Councilperson Szymanski

#### **Public Discussion:**

None

#### **Director's Report: July 2021**

July 2021 Parks and Recreation Report – June 2021 Recreation Activity

- June 2, 2021 – The department met with the Art on The Bay Committee to discuss the use of the Park Rangers and Park Maintenance Staff to help with the event. They would reimburse the department for any additional staffing costs incurred in order to do so.
- June 4-6, 2021 – The summer camp staff training was held. The department worked with Play Works of Michigan, a non-profit company that educates and promotes the benefits of outdoor play, to offer a much more substantial training for our staff than what we've been able to do in the past. It was well received by our staff and they noted that they feel much more prepared for the summer.
- June 7, 2021 – The department met with the New Baltimore Police Department to discuss the Anchor Bay triathlon. We settled on an updated bike route for the event, and discussed the amount of staff and officers we would need to safely patrol the route and cover the event.
- June 7 & 8, 2021 – The department held parent meetings for summer camp to prepare parents for the upcoming program.
- June 10, 2021 – The department met with AYSO Region 195 to discuss a potential partnership and how our programs could mutually benefit each other.
- June 11, 2021 – The department held the annual School's Out Camp Out at Maynard "Red" Aurand Memorial Park. Despite a little bit of rain, the event went off well and we had a great turnout: about 40 tents and 125 people were there for the food, movie in the park, and camping.
- June 14, 2021 – City Council voted to deny the Parks & Recreation Department the vehicle requested in order for our department to have enough vehicles so that staff did not have to rely on their own vehicle for transportation.
- June 16, 2021 – The Bay Area Fishing Tournament planning committee met to discuss the event and continue the planning.
- June 23-27 – Bay-Rama held it's annual Fishfly Festival. Despite the iffy weather for the majority of the event, everything went well and it was a successful event. We're very fortunate to have such a great group of volunteers who help put on the event.
- June 24, 2021 – The Parks & Recreation Commission held a Special Meeting to discuss the potential lease agreement of the Anchor Bay Aquatic Center.

- June 28, 2021 – City Council voted to deny the Mayor’s request of an extension of the Emergency Order. The Council and all commissions are now required to meet in person. Attendance via teleconference (Zoom) is still an option for members of the public or non-voting meeting attendees.

**Agenda Items:**

Motion by Haydamack, second by Glinski to approve the Meeting Minutes from the June 2021 meeting.  
All Voting Yes.                      Opposing: None                      Motion Carried.

Motion by Haydamack, second by Anulli to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from June 24<sup>th</sup>.  
All Voting Yes.                      Opposing: None                      Motion Carried.

Motion by Anulli, second by Winter to approve the Director’s Report for July 2021.  
All Voting Yes.                      Opposing: None                      Motion Carried.

Motion by Haydamack, second by Zoli to approve the Meeting Agenda for July 2021.  
All Voting Yes.                      Opposing: None                      Motion Carried.

**Discussion:**

**Old Business:**

*Burke Park Improvements Discussion*

Director Novak informed the commission that the concrete project was complete, replacing the apron around the indoor pavilion and both stair cases. It replaced a lot of dangerous concrete and was an important update with regards to safety. Novak also informed the commission that the fencing project was now delayed until Mi-August. He mentioned there are now temporary handrails to keep the staircases open until the fencing project begins. Novak also informed the commission that he and Assistant Director Adam Abraham met with TLC Public Relations Craig Cole that afternoon to discuss the \$250,000 Total Life Changes donation for a new playscape at Burke Park. The bids are all due back by July 14 where they will then chose a company and move forward with the project. The department hopes to have the project completed sometime this Fall. The department will also look at repurposing the old playscape and the potential to move it to Ruedisale Park, but it will depend on the condition the playscape is when it is torn down.

**New Business:**

*Burke Park Work Study*

Director Novak informed the commission that a City Council member had requested a work study in regards to overcrowding at Walter & Mary Burke Park. Director Novak contacted the DNR about the potential of fencing off or charging fees to enter the park, to which he was told the change would need to be approved by the Michigan DNR Board of Trustees. Then, if approved, the department would have to go through a mitigation process where an asset that is valued equally would have to be given up to make the change. This is all based off the Michigan Trust grant the department received to build the indoor pavilion and bathroom facilities currently at the park. Novak does believe once the fencing project is completed, it will help control of the park as there will only be 3 points of entry to the park and also posed requesting extra funds for additional park rangers as an option. Commissioner Haydamack asked what was the thought process on this to which Mayor Dupray responded that while a member of council requested the work study, he wanted feedback in regards to the project before a work study was scheduled and that is why it was brought to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Commission Haydamack then expressed concerns with the changes as it would be difficult to enforce due to open parking downtown, it goes against the atmosphere of bringing people in that the DDA is trying to do, and residents would incur an additional charge after already paying taxes to maintain that park. He believes that this is a burden the department carries with having such a beautiful park with people wanting to

come to it from all around the area. Commissioner Zoli agreed and stated that a larger police presence in the park could help stop some of the issues. Director Novak then stated that he would begin sharing logs with the commission and City Council that the park rangers maintain. Novak believes this would be helpful insight to how many rules are enforced a day. Novak said people tend to notice the things that go wrong, but when it is a positive experience, nothing is said. The Park Rangers help provide a lot more positive experiences by enforcing simple rules. Novak stated that most of the issues are revolving around teens, but the repour being established by the Park Rangers is mitigating those issues and the department is headed in a very good direction.

#### *Anchor Bay Aquatic Center Lease Discussion*

Director Novak shared with the Commission what was drafted by the department and city administration and given to Tim Tomlinson as to what we would want in an agreement, but acknowledged that this was a draft and does not know what way negotiations will go. Commissioner Glinski asked if there was any precedence set in agreements like these to which Novak responded that these types of deals are rare, but Mayor Dupray did note that Warren has 6 school districts within its boundaries and has a working relationship with all of them. Commissioner Haydamack stated that the most important figures to come out of these discussions is what the lease will cost the city and what will the cost be for other facility usage in the area. Commissioner Haydamack then asked what plans the department had for programming there and what projections were completed to date. Novak responded that they had worked with Plante Moran to project a budget based on expenditures received from the school district and classes the department would run at 50% capacity. Novak noted that the budget revenue was projected low and expenses were projected high. Novak noted that the city could relieve the district and taxpayers of a significant cost to the district and provide a robust set of programs in that facility and that it was a win-win-win. Commissioner Glinski asked what year the facility was build to which Novak responded he believed it was 1997, but with the bond issue in 2017 most of the interior operating mechanisms were replaced in the last few years. Commissioner Haydamack then asked what the timeline would look like to which Novak responded that best case scenario is a final lease agreement in September or October and the department is in the building by December. Commissioner Glinski asked what the lease terms were at the Cricklewood building to which Novak responded that there was a 90 day out clause. Commissioner Haydamack then stated that he and the commission were open to helping anyway they could, even if it meant special meetings. Commissioner Haydamack asked if the city took over the school district building, would resident fees be changed to Anchor Bay boundaries? Novak responded that that was the plan and it wouldn't be a big change as a very small amount of money is collected by non-resident fees. Commissioner Haydamack stated that this was a great nex step in the continued expansion of recreational offerings for the City of New Baltimore. He didn't believe City Hall was a great location for the new recreation center and the Aquatic Center will be a hub in the middle of the largest area of residents and will provide a huge amount of recreational offerings. Director Novak responded to that saying the department will be able to offer programs it has never offered before.

#### **Miscellaneous:**

Commissioner Anulli took a moment to thank Adam Abraham, Assistant Director, along with all the other volunteers, for helping out at the Bay-Rama Fishfly Festival the weekend before.

Motion by Haydamack, second by Glinski to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 pm.

All Voting Yes.

Opposing: None

Motion Carried.

Submitted by: Adam Abraham, Assistant Director

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 2, 2021

Director's Report

### July 2021 Recreation Activity Report

- July 1, 2021 – The department met with a representative from Total Life Changes regarding the donation for the playscape at Walter & Mary Burke Park. They confirmed their commitment of \$250,000 for the playscape. We also discussed other potential donations.
- July 2, 2021 – The department met with a beach volleyball league coordinator about upgrading the Burke Park volleyball courts for the use of an adult volleyball league.
- July 7, 2021 – The department met with the Police Department to finalize staffing and directions for the Anchor Bay triathlon.
- July 9, 2021 – There was no camp for the day due to setup for the Anchor Bay Triathlon.
- July 10, 2021 – The department held the 36<sup>th</sup> annual Anchor Bay Triathlon. We had great weather and approximately 150 participants. Overall, the event went great. Everyone was safe and we received a lot of positive feedback.
- July 13, 2021 – The director participated in a Macomb County Healthy Park Collaborative meeting and discussed how to maintain healthy parks & recreation departments.
- July 14, 2021 – The city administration had the official public bid opening for the Burke Park Playscape. We received 6 bids.
- July 15, 2021 – The director participated in a “resilient Michigan” webinar that discussed many different grant options for parks.
- July 19, 2021 – City Council held a work study meeting to discuss roads and the lease agreement with the school district for the aquatic center. The council voted for the city’s attorney to move forward with revised negotiations with the school district.
- July 23-24, 2021 – The Bay Area Fishing Tournament was held at Walter & Mary Burke Park. Friday went very well. Some food trucks for the rally didn’t show, which was unfortunately, but the music was great and everyone seemed to have a good time. On Saturday, the fishing tournament went well and the daily activities picked up after the rain stopped around 11:00am. The rest of the day went well until we had to cancel the evening entertainment at 8:15pm due to tornado warnings. All in all it was a well run event and we’re looking forward to it next year.
- July 27, 2021 – The department completed the full review of the playscape bids and selected 3 bidders to move on in the selection process. We would like a committee of 5-6 people to review the bids and receive presentations from each of the three bidders.
- July 28, 2021 – The department had its monthly meeting with the library to discuss co-programming. We discussed each of our upcoming events as well as a story walk in Festival Park.



**AYSO Region 195, PO Box 155  
New Baltimore, Michigan 48047  
[www.aysoregion195.org](http://www.aysoregion195.org)**

July 28, 2021

## AYSO Description and Goals Proposal

AYSO Region 195 would like to enter into an agreement of partnership with the city of New Baltimore Parks and Receptions Department to develop quality soccer fields and promote cost effective soccer recreation to the children in the community. The agreement could include partnership, field development, registration fees and combined promotions. Exact details will need to be worked out by both parties and presented as a beneficial structure for both organizations.

For example, a player signs up with AYSO through New Baltimore Parks and Recreation Department network, a \$5 fee per player would be kept by New Baltimore. We typically range between 350-550 kids per season. For field development, AYSO Region 195 would prepay field usage fees up front in order to get matching monies needed to develop the fields.

We are ready to invest in the future and look forward to developing the relationship.

AYSO Region 195 Board  
Non-profit