

CITY OF MONROE
PARK BOARD MINUTES
June 21, 2012

Call To Order

Chairperson Ralph Yingling called the Park Board meeting to order at 7:02pm in the Parks/Public Works Conference Room.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Ralph Yingling, Jeff Rasmussen, Shawna Chamberlain, Bill Kristiansen, Steve Whalen

Board Members Absent: Collette Reams, Karin Coppernoll

Agenda Revisions – None

Approval of Minutes - Motion was made by Bill Kristiansen and seconded by Shawna Chamberlain to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2012 meeting with two changes noted under 'Call to Order'(name correction) and 'Unfinished Business' (word correction). Motion carried unanimously.

Audience Participation – None

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – *Draft Agenda – July19* - The draft agenda for the July 19, 2012 regular meeting was discussed. A second park tour covering the parks that were not visited in May was added for the July meeting, so it was decided that the rest of the agenda for that meeting would be kept light in order to accommodate the tour. A review and discussion of Section 6 of the Park Plan will be added for either the August or September meeting.

Staff Reports/Updates –*Director's Report*- Director Mike Farrell distributed copies of the latest update of department work and activities. The report included events and programs held and planned for the summer season, maintenance efforts in the parks, an update on the volunteer activities at the Julie V. Morris Community Garden and a summary of donors and volunteers for the signature flowers downtown and along the street medians on Main Street and Lewis Street. Ralph Yingling complimented Mike Farrell for his efforts in getting donations and volunteerism in order to make the downtown flower program a success this year. He noted that it is a challenge to plan and put into action each year.

Board Discussion – *Review of Park Plan Elements – Section 5* – The Board discussed Section 5 of the Park Plan, which covered funding for the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) listed in the plan. It was noted that the funding plan was based for the most part on the collection of Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET) and park mitigation fees through new development, both of which were severely reduced after 2008. This has created a limit on available funds for CIP projects. In addition, a State law was passed by the Legislature to allow governing bodies to use REET funds for park operations, which the Monroe City Council has done in the amount of \$200,000

for 2012 and to be determined for future budget cycles. In spite of the CIP fund reductions, the Department has accomplished several CIP projects over the past few years, in part due to successful grant applications. Jeff Rasmussen inquired whether the Board could plan fundraiser events to support CIP projects. Mike Farrell replied that it is a good idea and that he would look into State Auditor guidelines for it and bring it back to the Board for future discussion.

Cable Wake Park – Jeff Rasmussen briefed the Board on the City Council meetings he attended on the Cable Wake Park proposal. He described H3O's presentation, community comment, City Council comment and the Council vote to approve an agreement with H3O to develop and operate the cable wake park facility. Jeff mentioned that there will be opportunities for the public to participate in future public hearings as the development project progresses.

Skate Park – Ralph Yingling briefed the Board that the proposers of improvements for the Skate Park would schedule an update for a future Park Board meeting to be determined.

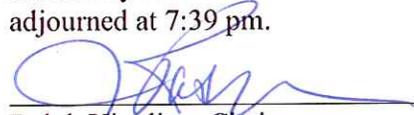
Agency Reports

Planning Commission – Bill Kristiansen reported that the East Monroe Area re-zone was passed by the City Council. The Planning Commission voted in a 3-3 tie on the issue, which then was sent to the City Council, who voted 5-1 to move on the re-zone.

Monroe School District – Ralph Yingling reported that school is out for the summer and that the District is working with various community organizations to have additional recreation activities available for the summer lunch program. He also reported that the School district had applied for a grant through Baseball Tomorrow for funds in the amount of \$400,000 to develop the baseball fields at the high school but did not get the grant. He stated that the School District will continue to search and apply for grant funding for this project.

Adjournment

Motion by Jeff Rasmussen and seconded by Steve Whalen to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.



Ralph Yingling, Chairperson

Jeff Rasmussen, Vice Chairperson



Steve Whalen, Secretary