

RECREATION COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 5:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm.

Members Present: Chair Eric Marichal, Vice Chair Kathy Young, April Clifford, Kim Fitch, Daron Goldstein.

Members Absent: Courtney Bunker, Josh Frost, City Councilor Rober Miller.

Staff Present: City Planner Elena Piekut (Staff Liaison).

2. Adoption of March 15 and April 12, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the April 12 special meeting were not yet available. Vice Chair Kathy Young moved to approve the March 15, 2022 special meeting minutes as written. April Clifford seconded. Vote: U/A.

3. Review and Recommendation of Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

The Commission reviewed all external funding requests and City-expended line items to prepare a recommended FY 2023 budget for the City Council. Their discussions regarding external requests was based on written applications as well as in-person presentations made to the Commission on April 12. Items of significant discussion included:

- Whether funding a YMCA is really needed given their national network of support and fees for service. Discussion ensued regarding past efforts of the Commission to research of other cities and towns to their YMCAs as well as into how other communities structure Recreation Director positions.
- Authorized City Planner Piekut to set line 52030, Recreation Services, to \$0 unless she finds need in review of expenditures.
- The full amount of 52058, Recreation Activities, should be moved to 52129, Parade & Lighting Expenses, which should be renamed to include multiple winter/holiday events. Line 52058 has not been used consistently in many years, as it has funded a portion of the Winter Carnival which is repeatedly cancelled or unsuccessful due to weather. A winter and holiday events line will cover not only the Christmas Parade and lighting expenses, but also new expenses associated with a larger Christmas tree and lighting event, a potential New Year's event, and other events reimaged along the lines of the former Winter Carnival.
- Line 52230, Ice Rink Maintenance & Supplies, should be increased to \$6,000 to accommodate the need for a new liner in the 2022-2023 season as reported by the YMCA, which oversees its setup and maintenance for the winter months. Authorized City Planner to use this figure based on last purchase of a liner, or a more accurate one if the YMCA has obtained estimates in time.
- Line 52002, Power, should be increased to \$7,500 to account for overall increases in electricity expenses.
- Funding the new request from Acadia Fire Futbol Club is not recommended as it is of limited benefit to Ellsworth residents generally.
- Considered increasing beyond full request for Line 52242, Beautification, to recognize the contributions of volunteers associated with Heart of Ellsworth in improving Merrill Park. Decided to maintain at full request of \$2,850.

- Discussed The Grand's funding requests. April Clifford provided background that it was broken into multiple line item's at Commission's request for greater clarity. Consensus to maintain flat funding with exception of Line 52054, Grand Programming, which should be proposed at \$0 rather than \$10,000 in order not to fund general operational/ facility expenses.
- Chair Marichal noted Council Chair Hamilton's comments at a previous meeting that many external funding requests should be considered as part of the Social Services budget requests.

The Commission reviewed its conclusions again to ensure a complete and accurate recommendation, pending changes by the City Planner as discussed. **Vice Chair Kathy Young moved to recommend the proposed Fy 2023 budget to the City Council. April Clifford seconded. Vote: U/A.** See attached proposal finalized and forwarded to the City Manager and Finance Department on April 25, 2022.

4. Staff Comments

a. Upcoming Agenda Items

Chair Eric Marichal noted the need to discuss Merrill Park as brought to the Commission in March, as well as complaints about the bike-ped trail, trash, and pet waste, and an overall understanding of Public Works' responsibilities and schedules in light of the concerns directed to the Commission. The group agreed to invite Public Works Director Lisa Sekulich to the May meeting; City Planner Piekut will ask her to attend.

5. Adjournment

Vice Chair Kathy Young moved to adjourn at 6:51 pm. Kim Fitch seconded. Vote: U/A.