

**CITY OF WARREN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
February 2, 2021**



CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Suppa.

ROLL CALL

Members present were Mike Suppa, Kirk Johnson, Kristine Whitaker, and Judi Wilson. Also attending from City Staff were Nancy Freenock, City Manager, Mike Holtz, DPW Director, Vince DeJoy, Planning and Zoning Director, and Larina Zimmerman, Recording Secretary. All attendees participated via a Zoom meeting, due to COVID restrictions.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- a. Chairperson – *Mike Suppa*
- b. Vice-Chairperson – *Judi Wilson*

Mike Suppa volunteered to remain as the Chairperson for a 1-year term. Mike asked Judi if she would remain Vice-chairperson for a 1-year term also. Kris made a motion to approve both re-elections of Chairperson and Vice-chairperson, Judi seconded the motion, motion was passed unanimously. No other Commission Members were nominated.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

- Warren City/County Citizens: Jane Dunshie, Karen Black, Brian Hagberg, Bonnie Miller
- Unknown Visitors: Alexis Fordham, Stan Williams, Carla Lines
- Times Observer Reporter: Josh Cotton
- Council Member: Doug Hearn
- Mackin Engineer Company: Brandi Roselli & Jim Watenpool

MINUTES

- Ms. Whitaker made a motion to approve the November 10th, 2020 minutes. Judi seconded, motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

REPORT OF OFFICERS

NONE

CITY STAFF REPORTS

- Crescent Park Update – Mike Holtz told the Commission that bids for the Crescent Park project will be advertised in this Saturdays, 02-06-21, Warren Times Observer. Bids will then be presented to City Council at the March 15th meeting for approval. Portions of the project, such as the installation of the conduit and refurbishing the trail, will be performed by in-house DPW Crews to help reduce costs. Council set an amount in the City's 2021 Budget for this project and with this in-housework it is hoped this project will come in within budget.
- Vince Dejoy – Nancy introduced Vince Dejoy as the new Director of Zoning, Codes and Economic Development. Vince replaced David Hildebrand, who just recently retired.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Recreation Parks & Open Space Plan

- The Commission hopes to have the plan in draft form and distributed to the Members by the end of February, complete with the appendices. Then there can be ample time between meetings to review and discuss the plan at the April meeting.
- The current draft plan has active parks, the passive parks are currently in the Appendices of the Plan. That section of the plan has not yet been discussed.
- The Commission will have Special Meeting in March to review the plan. At that time, the public will be able to provide input. Once the Draft Plan is completed, the Plan will then be on the City's website for an additional Public review. The Plan will then be presented to City Council for final approval.
- Jim Watenpool, from Mackin, visited Warren last year and looked at all the active and passive parks throughout the City. Jim was then able to develop possible improvements that may be needed over the next 5 to 10 years.
- One item to note is that any improvements you may see in the Parks, should be included in this Plan. DCNR (Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) has stated that their grants will only cover projects that are included in the plan.
- A question was asked about including BreezePoint Landing. City Staff stated that all the Parks, passive or active, will be addressed in this plan in some way shape or form. Priority parks have recommendations addressed in the main portion of the plan, while lesser priority park improvements will be addressed in the Appendices.

B. Washington Park Conceptual Site Plan

- The City has been awarded a \$10,000 grant for the development a conceptual plan to construct bike/hike trails throughout Washington Park. This process will include public input as well.
- Kirk Johnson suggested not to develop Washington Park, but rather leave the Park as a nature preservation park. *Kirk* also suggested maybe constructing a nature preserve building and/or a bird sanctuary. Mackin will take these suggestions into consideration when developing the plan.
- *April 6th, 2021 - correction made to minutes to reflect incorrect name noted in above sentence "Kurt also suggested maybe constructing a nature preserve building and/or a bird sanctuary."*

NEW BUSINESS

- Lacy Playground Surface – Rotary would like the City to apply for a DCNR grant to replace the Lacy Playground play surface from a wood chip type surface to a soft surface.
- Boat Launch – The City has submitted a grant to the Fish & Boat Commission to help fund a boat launch at the end of Clark St near BreezePoint Landing.

MISCELLANEOUS

- During the meeting, Visitors, Stan Williams, Carla Lines and Alexis Fordham interrupted and used inappropriate language and made insensitive comments to City Staff and Committee members. They were removed from the Zoom meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mike Suppa made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Judi Wilson.

NEXT MEETING

- Meeting is scheduled for April 6th, 2021 at 4:30 pm. In the case a special meeting is required, the Committee will be advised appropriately.

Submitted by:

Kassie Damcott, Recording Secretary