



City of Marquette, MI

300 West Baraga Ave
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Meeting Minutes City Commission

Monday, August 14, 2023
6:00 PM
Commission Chambers

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Present: Davis, Hanley, Mayer, Ottaway, Smith, Stonehouse

Absent: Larson

Commissioner Jenna Smith moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Michael Larson for personal reasons, seconded by Commissioner Fred Stonehouse and Carried Unanimously.

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Sally Davis moved to Approve the agenda as written, seconded by Commissioner Jerney Ottaway and Carried Unanimously.

Announcements

The Mayor had no announcements.

Boards and Committees

1. Appointment(s)

Allison Clark, Downtown Development Authority, for an unexpired term ending 1-1-24

Commissioner Fred Stonehouse moved to Approve the appointment as listed, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sally Davis and Carried Unanimously.

Public Comments - Comments may not exceed three minutes per person. Please state your name and physical address when making public comments.

Colleen Roberts spoke about the dedicated walking hours on Presque Isle and shared concerns with municipal resources and the local tax base. She said it's important to closely evaluate the budget in order to maintain services while keeping costs low for residents.

Margaret Brumm spoke about a recent trip to the Social Security office, about Board of Light and Power practices, and about accessibility in public parks. She said the City should put effort into educating the public about the rules and regulations regarding traffic on Presque Isle.

Presentation(s)

2. Marquette Housing Commission, by Chair Jackie Stark

Marquette Housing Commission Director Sharon Maki and MHC board chair Jackie Stark offered an update on the MHC. Stark discussed the board, the structure and various programs of the MHC and spoke about how the MHC properties and tenants interact with the community in various ways.

Maki spoke about the MHC's recent RAD conversion, which included changes to subsidy, as well as a MSHDA loan to update the buildings and facilities. She shared what that has meant for the unique opportunities available to the MHC.

Stark then spoke about updates that have come out of the RAD conversion, including renovations of the units, which are now all air conditioned. She spoke about the MHC's activities and accomplishments from the last year, and explained challenges faced by the organization.

3. Waste Management Update, by Mark Harrick and Tom Cascio

Tom Cascio from Waste Management said the city's collection contract is coming up and he wanted to share some ideas that the company has had about how to make collection safer, more efficient and more cost-effective.

First, he said that if the city were to limit or eliminate street parking in a neighborhood during the night that garbage collection is scheduled, it would speed up collection, keep the neighborhood cleaner, and be a safer environment for workers.

Additionally, he said that a move to citywide utilization of carts would improve all the same metrics.

Following the presentation, Commissioner Smith said the move to recycling bins was a big shift for people, and she said the city may want to consider some outreach and education prior to making any other big shifts. She also said she struggles with the idea of implementing a parking ban tied to garbage collection.

Commissioner Hanley said she wanted to clarify that the Commission has not created or previously discussed these ideas and said these are Waste Management's proposals.

Commissioner Stonehouse said he also doesn't like the idea of banning parking. He said he can see how this will help Waste Management but isn't sure it will be beneficial for residents or visitors.

4. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jermei Ottaway moved to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Hanley and Carried Unanimously.

4.a. Approve the minutes of the July 31, 2023 regular Commission meeting

4.b. Approve the total bills payable in the amount of \$ 4,934,639.31

- 4.c. Fire Department Radios
- 4.d. Michigan Homeowner Assistance Fund (MIHAF) Participation Provider
- 4.e. Planned Unit Development Agreement - 480 River Park Circle - Lot 12
- 4.f. Presque Isle Dredging Project - NEPA Technical Services Change Order
- 4.g. Rotary Club of Marquette West - Special Event Permit
- 4.h. Summer Craftacular - Special Event Permit

New Business

5. City Manager and City Attorney Performance Evaluation Process

Mayor Pro Tem Sally Davis moved to Authorize the appointment of three Commissioners to serve on a committee to review and compile the City Manager's and City Attorney's performance evaluations and to make a recommendation regarding future terms of employment and compensation, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Hanley and Carried Unanimously.

Following the vote, Mayor Mayer stated that he would be appointing Commissioners Smith, Ottaway and Hanley to this committee.

6. Kids Cove Playground Contract Award and Budget Amendment

Commissioner Jessica Hanley moved to Approve the budget amendment for Kids Cove Inclusive Playground to reflect \$1,750,000 in revenues and \$1,750,000 in expenditures; approve the contract with Associated Constructors LLC in the amount of \$1,601,528 and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the contract following attorney review, seconded by Commissioner Jennifer Smith and Carried Unanimously.

Public Comments - Comments may not exceed three minutes per person. Please state your name and physical address when making public comments.

Margaret Brumm said Waste Management presented a common-sense recommendation on how to address an issue. She said it is surprising that the Commission is comfortable providing support for the inclusive playground plan for children, while remaining silent on the concerns she has voiced regarding the driving/walking hours on Presque Isle.

Colleen Roberts said she would support trading the Cliffs-Dow property for use as a future veterans' home. She said it's a win-win and she thinks citizens would support the move.

Geraldine Nault spoke on garbage pickup. She said she likes the cart system, and it is picked up reliably and on-time.

Martha Rice said she is upset about the discussions about Presque Isle, and is especially concerned about a rumor she has heard that the City plans to eliminate all vehicle traffic on the island.

Comments from the Commission

Commissioner Ottaway said there is no intention from staff or the City Commission to ban cars on Presque Isle.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis thanked the volunteers and staff that took part in the recent Lower Harbor cleanup. She also recognized the life and myriad local contributions of former Marquette Mayor Dan Mazzucchi, who died recently.

Commissioner Smith said the Commission has not spoken much about this summer's Presque Isle Park driving hours because it was not a Commission decision to begin with. She said the Commission has been supporting that staff decision. She provided an overview of the driving hours on the island and said there is no plan that she is aware of that would permanently limit driving on the island.

Commissioner Stonehouse talked about the historical importance of Presque Isle and about the difficulty in making a public space like that available equitably to people with various interests. He said the way this discussion is currently being handled is not productive. He then complimented Dan Mazzucchi, who he said led a life of achievement, got things done and made the city better than it was when he arrived.

Commissioner Hanley reiterated that the Presque Isle Park decision was made at the staff level. She said the staff is charged with making day-to-day decisions in the City, while the Commission's role is to make large decisions, support staff and question when necessary. She said the City and the Commission are constantly working to keep costs low and service high, and noted that rising costs have made it difficult for the City, as well as residents.

Mayor Mayer said he is confident that every member of the Commission has sought information on the changes to driving hours at the island, and that it became clear that the decision was made for good reasons. He said the idea that someone would question the capabilities of the City leadership over that decision is laughable. He praised City staff.

Comments from the City Manager

City Manager Karen Kovacs said the shift in driving hours on Presque Isle was solely an operational decision, and she said it would be evaluated moving forward, as all such decisions are.

Adjournment

Mayor Mayer adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Cody O. Mayer, Mayor

Kyle Whitney, City Clerk

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