

Duncan Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2022
Council Chambers, City Hall
Grand Haven, MI

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Jennifer Holland.

Commission Members:

Present: Jennifer Holland, Roger Cotner, Aaron van Baal, Nancy Nagtzaam, Georgette Sass (arrived at 7:13pm).

Absent:

Others: City Liaison Derek Gajdos, Larry and Nathan Burns, Dr. Ali Locher of Grand Valley State University, Brett Kuipers of Michigan Forestry Co., Parks and Recreation Board members Tonya Christiansen and Robert Bell, Cemetery Board members Kathryn Roberts and Ronald Streng, and audience guests.

The President appointed van Baal as Acting Secretary due to the absence of Sass.

Approval of Agenda: Cotner moved, van Baal seconded approval of the draft Agenda as circulated. The motion to approve the agenda carried 4-0.

New Business:

- A) Larry Burns and Nathan Burns presented their Adopt a Hemlock initiative; a non-profit organization that will collect funds to be utilized for the care, health, and restoration of urban forests inside the City of Grand Haven. The panel stressed the importance of taking immediate actions against the myriad problems facing the Park including but not limited to over-browsing by the deer population, erosion, trail usage, invasive plants, invasive insects, and diseases including Oak Wilt, Beech Bark Disease, and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Cotner thanked Dr. Locher for her expertise and continued work for Duncan Park. Holland, Cotner, and van Baal thanked the entire panel for their work on this project and for educating the Commission and the public.

Public Comment: Several audience guests stated their thoughts and concerns regarding the condition and wellbeing of Duncan Park and Grand Haven greenspace at large. Several audience questions were answered by Larry Burns, Dr. Locher, and Brett Kuipers. Gajdos informed attendees that the City already practices many of the recommendations put forth by the panel when caring for trees around Grand Haven.

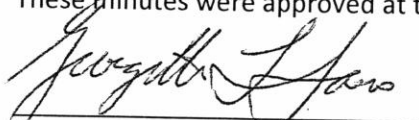
Treasurer's Report: Amy Bessinger provided reports for January 2021, which were circulated prior to the meeting and formally received by the Commissioner. Gajdos informed the Commission the City was able to repair the light fixtures at the Sheldon and Lake entrances and cleaned out 5 Park catch basins as approved by the Commission at the January meeting.

Public Comments: None.

Next meeting: Tuesday March 15, 2022, at 7:00p.m. at City Hall.

Cotner moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 pm, van Baal seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

These minutes were approved at the Commission meeting held on March 15, 2022


Georgette Sass, Secretary