

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN  
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN**

**Parks and Recreation Board**

**Meeting Minutes  
September 7, 2022**

The Parks and Recreation Board meeting was called to order on September 7, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Conference Room.

**Roll Call:** Tonya Christiansen, Chair  
Robert Bell, Co-Chair  
Jim DeVries  
Lynn Groothuis

**Absent:**

Also Present: Matt Wade, Streets & Utilities Manager and Board Liaison, Derek Gajdos, Director of Public Works, Larry Burns, GVSU Professor, Tony McGhee, Abonmarche Consultants, Bruce Baker, City Resident.

**Approval of Minutes** from the August 10, 2022 meeting:

A motion was made by DeVries, and seconded by Bell to approve the P&R Board Meeting Minutes from August 10, 2022.

**Motion Approved 4-0**

**New Business**

- 22-72 A presentation by Larry Burns, Professor of Psychology at GVSU, proposing a forestry management program for City trees. The program revolves around the rising problems hemlock woolly adelgid, oak wilt, and beach bark disease in the City of Grand Haven Parks.**

Three major species have been identified HWA, Oak Wilt, Beechbark disease. Is present throughout mulligans hollow, it's slower in effect and can take 20+ years to kill a tree. The proposed program is set up to mitigate and fund to protect the parklands.

A motion was made by Groothuis to and seconded by Bell to support the forest management plan with external funding for mitigation of invasive species in the parks.

## **Motion Approved 4-0**

### **General Business**

- Tony McGhee from Abonmarche discussed the information about the Michigan Spark Grants. The State is currently looking for projects with a budget of \$15 million annually. Tony suggest that a community like the City of Grand Haven should shoot for a \$700,000 project with a 25% match to stay competitive in the grant selection process. Linear Park is currently the standout project that Abonmarche is going to estimate quantities and come up with a total cost to repair all safety hazards and shore up the waterways.

### **Adjournment**

It was moved by Bell, seconded by DeVries, to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 pm.