Chairperson Stearley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Stearley, Montgomery, Schropp, Hopp, Weber
Absent: Brooks, Post

Moved by Montgomery, seconded by Hopp, to excuse Commissioners Post and Brooks. The motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Hopp, seconded by Weber, to approve the March 16, 2023, meeting minutes as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments: None.

Commissioners discussed the scheduled hike on Saturday, April 29 at the Ferrysburg Nature Preserve. Comments given:

- Disappointed, the hike was not reviewed by the Recreation Commission before it was scheduled.
- Proper procedures were not followed in scheduling the hike.
- Without going through the Recreation Commission, it shows a lack of transparency.
- It was scheduled on short notice, why?
- A meeting was called on a Sunday during spring break when many were out of town.
- What was the urgency to schedule the hike without going through the Recreation Commission?

Moved by Weber, seconded by Schropp, to support the Community Hike on Saturday, April 29, 2023, 10 a.m. at the Ferrysburg Nature Preserve. The motion passed, 4 yeas, 1 nay (Hopp).

Moved by Montgomery, seconded by Weber, to request the City Council to authorize up to $2,000.00 for three (3) family night events at Wm. Ferry Park during the summer. The motion passed unanimously.

Members discussed the Coast Guard Community Picnic on Sunday, July 30, 2023. The event will be similar to past year’s picnics.
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10. Commissioners discussed the Explore the Grand Region 2020-2024 Recreation Plan. Comments given:
   
   • Need to list the splash pad at Fire Barn Park and remove it from Coast Guard Park.
   • Need to list the kayak launch at Wm. Ferry Park.
   • Wm. Ferry Park was once an orchard. Possibly have a Botanical Garden in the park.
   • Need to add more specific language under Goal #2 for pickleball.

11. Members Reports:

   Manager Bessinger commented:

   Students from Walden Green Montessori and West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics will be repainting the mural or painting a new mural on the east side of the cement bunker at Dog Park. The City will provide the supplies.

   A citizen has requested permission to paint the west side of the cement bunker at Dog Park and will be providing a written request for review.

   A citizen has offered to make a contribution to the baseball field at City Hall when/if it is constructed if the park could be named after his late grandson.

12. The consensus of members was to schedule the following meetings at 6:00 PM:

   • May 18 at Coast Guard Park
   • June 15 at Mike Herman Park
   • July 20 at Sunnyside Park
   • August 17 at William Ferry Park

13. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Craig Bessinger, Acting Secretary