

**MINUTES**  
**THE SOUTH LYON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday March 11, 2009**

Present:

Commission Members:     Dianne Beagle  
                                   Robert McConnell  
                                   Lori Mosier  
                                   Erica Wilson

Chairperson:               Michael Olando

Also Present:               Kristen Delaney - City of South Lyon  
                                   Jean Benedict - Resident, Lyon Township

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Chairperson Olando.

Wilson had several revisions to be made to the minutes of the January 14, 2009 meeting. Commissioners discussed and agreed to all proposed revisions.

**MOTION:** By Wilson, supported by McConnell .  
              To approve the minutes of the January 14, 2009 meeting, as amended.  
              Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Beagle proposed the addition of G. Eagle Scout Project and McConnell proposed the addition of E.1. McHattie Park Restroom Opening to the agenda.

**MOTION:** By Wilson, supported by McConnell.  
              To approve the agenda for the March 11, 2009, as amended.  
              Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

**Citizen Comments**

There were no citizen comments.

Olando requested that Item C. Revenue Source for Parks and Rec (Composting Site – Volunteer Park) be moved to the end of the Agenda to facilitate the discussion of the remaining items. All Commissioners agreed with this request.

**ITEM A: Introduction of New Commissioners**

Olando stated that two new Commissioners were sworn in at the March 10, 2009 South Lyon City Council meeting. He introduced Lori Mosier and stated the other Commissioner, Scott Black, was unable to attend.

**ITEM B: South Lyon Recreation Authority (SLRA) Field Requests**

Olando presented a letter (attached) from Jan Szostak of SLRA requesting use of Volunteer Park and McHattie Park soccer and baseball fields and McHattie Park sand volleyball courts for league play from April through October 2009. SLRA also requested the soccer fields at Volunteer Park on July 20-24 from 8:00am-5:00pm for a soccer camp.

Szostak informed Olando that she will have a group of league participants walk all fields prior to the season start to pick up trash, replace garbage cans and make the areas presentable. Wilson requested that Olando ask Szostak to remind all league participants to clean up after their games.

Olando will verify with Szostak that the South Lyon Soccer Club reserves soccer fields through SLRA.

**MOTION:** By Wilson, supported by Beagle.

To approve the request by SLRA for field use during 2009 as presented in the letter dated January 26, 2009.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

**ITEM D: Bike Racks**

Delaney stated that the four racks had been received and will be installed once the ground thaws. Potential locations are: by the South Lyon Hotel; in the alley by Tenpenny Furniture; by the U.S. Post Office; by Brown's Root Beer.

**ITEM E: Spring Park Walk-Through**

It was decided to begin the walk-through at the April 8, 2009 meeting and continue as needed at the May 13, 2009 meeting. Szostak, from SLRA, will be invited to accompany the Commissioners on the walk-through.

McConnell inquired as to when the McHattie Park restroom building will be opened and the port-a-john removed. Delaney will follow up with the City DPW. McConnell stated that establishing definite months and times of restroom operation would be helpful. Commissioners agreed to discuss this item at the next meeting after input from DPW is received.

**ITEM F: Park Signs/Decals**

Commissioners have been attempting to take some meeting time to apply the Park decals to the metal signs so they may be installed near the parks this spring. There has not been enough time during the meetings to accomplish this. Olando offered to apply the decals on his own time and deliver the completed signs to the DPW.

Commissioners will discuss placement of the signs during the Park Walk-Through and then order directional arrows and specific park name tags to be added to the signs. DPW will install the signs later in the spring.

### **ITEM G: Eagle Scout Project**

Beagle stated that she had been contacted by a South Lyon Boy Scout who asked if the Commission had any projects that he could undertake as his Eagle Scout Project. The one project that Commissioners could think of was the removal of the old, unsafe playground equipment at McHattie Park. Delaney stated that she would discuss this with Steve Renwick of the DPW and also inquire if he had projects that scouts could do. Beagle stated that she would discuss the project with the Scout's Eagle Advisor and report back to the Commission. The Scout does not have any time constraints at this point so the Commissioners agreed to gather more information regarding potential projects and discuss this item again at the next meeting.

Delaney stated that she will ask Renwick to attend Commission meetings several times throughout the year since issues arise periodically where his input is required.

### **ITEM C: Revenue Source for Parks and Rec (Composting Site – Volunteer Park)**

There was much discussion concerning the proposed composting operation for Volunteer Park, the citizen outcry and the subsequent withdrawal of the proposal by Spurt Industries. The Commission had no official position regarding the proposal. It was presented at the January 14, 2009 meeting as a courtesy to the Commission, prior to the formal presentation to the South Lyon City Council.

Olando inquired if the visitor, Jean Benedict, 21121 Laser Lane, wished to address this issue. Benedict, whose yard is adjacent to the part of the Park in question, stated that she is very concerned about the current and future status of that portion of the Park. Benedict provided information obtained from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding composting sites. She stated that the pile of bio-waste currently in the southern part of the Park was stated in the Spurt Proposal to be approximately 1023 cubic yards of "composted material". As such, it falls under the DEQ compost regulations which require any composted amount over 200 cubic yards to be registered as a compost site with the DEQ and be properly maintained. The park site is not registered with the DEQ and is not being properly maintained as a compost site. Benedict also stated that the regulations require that a compost site be located at least 800 feet from a private well. The existing pile is closer than 800 feet to the Benedict well. Delaney will review the DEQ regulations and their applicability to this site.

Commissioners viewed a Power-Point presentation by Wilson showing the existing condition of the Park. It is apparent that in addition to the bio-waste dumped there by the DPW, private citizens are also dumping yard waste and trash in the Park. There is a dirt two-track road into the site from Eight Mile Road that is accessible to anyone. There are no signs indicating that the site is a park and that no dumping is allowed. Much discussion ensued.

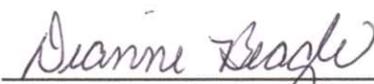
Commissioners agreed that the issue now is what currently is being done at Volunteer Park and what will occur there in the future.

**MOTION:** By Wilson, supported by McConnell.  
To formulate a Parks and Recreation Commission position on Volunteer Park for presentation to the South Lyon City Council.  
Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners agreed to the position as stated in the attached document. Delaney will request that the presentation of this position be added to the agenda of the next City Council meeting, if possible.

**MOTION:** By Mosier, supported by Wilson.  
To adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm.  
Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by:  for Mike Olando  
Michael Olando, Chairperson

  
Dianne Beagle, Secretary

## THE SOUTH LYON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Mike Olando, Chairperson  
Erica Wilson, Vice Chairperson  
Dianne Beagle, Secretary

Robert McConnell, Commissioner  
Lori Mosier, Commissioner  
Scott Black, Commissioner

### Volunteer Park – Position Statement

- **The Volunteer Park acreage was purchased for and has been designated as park land. It should not be used for dumping or staging. The Parks and Recreation Commission Master Plan does not indicate dumping or staging as planned activities for the Park.**
- **The dumping and staging currently being done by the DPW in the southern part of Volunteer Park is encouraging citizen dumping.**
- **The increasing amount of yard waste and trash dumped will increase the costs of developing that part of the park. Costs to remove the material will increase as the piles grow.**
- **A chain or barrier should be placed across the dirt road at Eight Mile Road to prevent vehicle entrance into the Park at that point.**
- **Signs designating the area as Volunteer Park should be placed along Eight Mile Road.**
- **Signs stating that no dumping is allowed should be placed along Eight Mile Road.**
- **The City DPW should find an alternate site for yard waste or utilize another disposal method.**
- **All yard waste and trash currently piled in the Park should be removed.**