

**CANTON LEISURE SERVICES
LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
November 17, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: Ken Harris, Anthony Davis, Jay Young, Valerie Krimmer, Kate Borninski, Robert Mossel, Mike Gulkewicz, Vijaya Sastry, Sara Rudolf, Chris Falco, Elizabeth Banker, Greg Hohenberger, Jon LaFever, Jessica Bunjik (Recorder)
EXCUSED: Brooke Franklin, Risha Narayanan
ABSENT: Tom Neuhart

A regular meeting of the Canton Leisure Services Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chair Mossel.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mossel, supported by Falco and seconded by Krimmer to approve the meeting minutes of September 15, 2021 as presented. Approved – carried unanimously.

III. AGENDA

Motion by Mossel, supported by Borninski and seconded by Krimmer to approve the agenda of November 17, 2021 as presented. Approved – carried unanimously.

IV. DEPARTMENT SHOWCASE

A. Leisure Services Planning

- 2021 5-Year Master Plan - <https://www.canton-mi.org/DocumentCenter/View/854/Canton-Leisure-Services-5-Year-Master-Plan-PDF>
 - Included park master plans for Heritage Park and Ridge-Ford Park (Previously known as Patriot Park)
 - Also included a 10-minute walk analysis – working to close the gaps on trails and sidewalks and have every household in Canton have a 10 minute walk to the nearest park
 - Held a public input session for the month of October
 - The board approved the plan at the November 9, 2021 meeting
 - Next steps are to send to DNR, SEMCOG and Wayne County
 - This process is necessary to help get potential grants
 - We continue to make efforts to connect trails with Washtenaw County
 - Side note – MDOT is looking for a place to put dirt that is removed from the I-275 project. Canton is thinking of using some to create sledding hills at Ridge/Ford Park
 - Borninski asked that the word “DRAFT” be removed from Page 3.
- Next step is the Strategic Plan
 - Funds allocated in the 2022 budget
 - Focus is operating plan
 - Will ask for LSAC input
- 2023 Accreditation

- Takes a lot of man hours to gather information and to be sure we meet all of the required standards

Questions:

- 1) How does Canton propose to fill the sidewalk gaps?
 - a) Work with Municipal Services to work together on both trail and sidewalks
 - b) Municipal Services has a sidewalk program already
- 2) Any issues with accreditation with COVID?
 - a) Could do it virtually but unsure where we will be in 2023
- 3) What is the budget or value of the Master Plan?
 - a) Costs \$30,000
 - b) Fair amount of staff time goes into preparing
 - c) There was an increase in cost this time due to the addition of the 10-minute walk analysis, Heritage Park analysis and Ridge/Ford Park analysis
- 4) What is Leisure Services position on the Gold Medal?
 - a) Applied in 2018 & 2019
 - b) COVID derailed the application process in 2020 and 2021
 - c) We are not anticipating applying in 2022 due to low staffing/not enough resources
- 5) How is Canton in relation to other nearby communities?
 - a) Canton does not have any dedicated funds for Parks and Rec unlike other communities
 - b) Canton offers similar to better programs and services
- 6) Any Facility or programs limited due to low staffing?
 - a) Yes, still struggling to find part-time staff
 - b) Today was the last day for interviews for the last full-time position needed
 - c) Kids corner is closed on certain days due to low staffing
 - d) Aquatic Center is closed on Sundays
 - e) Summit is still limiting hours
 - f) BLOCK has a waitlist of kids that cannot attend due to low staff levels
 - g) Wage increase has resulted in more application but not hires.

B. Future Meeting Topics

- a) Last meeting, we discussed the following:
 - Youth Sports – November
 - Barn – November
 - TR & BLOCK – January
 - Partnerships – March
- b) Discussed changing to:
 - Youth Sports – March
 - TR & BLOCK – January (Possible tour)
 - Partnerships – March (?)
 - Special Events – (?)
- c) Other ideas – e-mail other ideas to Jessi. Jessi will send a list of previous topics to better select future topics. (attached in e-mail)
 - Dog Park

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Picnic in the Park

- Event exceeded expectations
- 17 food vendors
- Wet conditions but ended up being a beautiful day
- Around 7000-7500 attendees
- Suggestion to do the event again without fireworks
- Possibility to move Liberty Fest fireworks to Friday evening and use Saturday as the backup date.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Preservation Park Barn

- Not much of an update. We are still waiting on insurance company
- The Board will be the deciders on what to replace the Barn with
 - Thinking of keeping the historic look but being more functional
 - The old barn had issues with ADA, fire suppression, etc.
 - Will work with HDC and Historical Society on input but decision will ultimately be made by the Township

B. 2022 Meeting Dates Proposed

C. 2022 Election Officers

- Vice Chair Krimmer volunteered to be the Vice Chair again
- Chair Mossell volunteered to be Chair again
- Motion to approve Chair and Vice Chair positions for 2022 supported by Banker and seconded by A. Davis.

Ken Harris will be stepping down from his role as an At Large Member of LSAC. Thank you and appreciation for time and insight.

COMMITTEE MEMBER INSIGHTS & PUBLIC COMMENT

- Sastry – What is LSAC role in Green space?
 - LSAC main goal is to advise on programs and facilities. May also provide input on planning with new developments
- Banker – Does Leisure Services request feedback from patrons on the larger events such as Liberty Fest or Picnic in the Park?
 - Yes, we promote surveys online using social media and will occasionally do paper surveys at the event.
- Sastry - Possible seating at the amphitheater
 - Do not have permanent seating but have recently started offering checking out chairs for patrons unable to sit on the ground.
- Mossel - Ponds have cleared up as the season went on
 - Unsure if it was due to the rainy season or the addition of bubblers and bacteria pods.
 - Will continue to use bubblers and pods in the future
- Sastry - When does the Master Plan start?
 - Projects will start based on funding
 - Had to get the plan approved in order to apply for grants
 - There is no guarantee what will happen until we know funding

- Krimmer - Ticketing at the Village Theater
 - Last Board Meeting approved a new ticketing software contract
 - This software allows flexibility and more options
 - Supporting hardware is on backorder but we should have enough equipment to get the software started in December
- Banker - Road Rally – did not see on events list
 - Will look into to see if the event is happening next year
- Rudolf -Employment opportunities
 - Can look on the website for open jobs and can subscribe to get new jobs sent to you.
 - <https://canton.applicantpro.com/jobs/>
 - Jessi to get you a contact

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn the meeting at 7:22pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 19, 2022