

**Minutes of the  
City of Inkster Parks and Recreation Commission  
Monthly Meeting  
2025 Middlebelt Rd. Inkster, MI 48141  
June 8, 2023  
6:30p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Ashawanna Butts, Walter Johnson, James Richardson Jr., Shirley Hankerson, Khalidah Muhammad (arrived at 6:45pm), Lewanna Abney-Mitchell (arrived at 7pm); Parks and Recreation Director Darryl Greene (present arrived at 8:01pm); Guests: Charles Reed, Nick Leonard.

**Call to Order  
Meditation/Prayer  
Roll Call of Commissioners  
Approval of Agenda**

**Forestry Grant**

- o The Grant opportunity is from the "USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act",
- o This grant consists of the development of urban forestry projects in areas with high scores in Environmental Justice (EJ), or Social Vulnerability Index (SVI). In general, these areas are Census tracts with low income, high pollution, low canopy cover, high risk of flooding, low access to recreational areas or parks, high heat island due to low canopy cover, and more.

**The Rouge Parkway**

- o Herman Jenkins Will attend meeting and provide information on how we can help.

**Adopt –a- Park**

**o Update on Bel Air Park adoption- Charles Reed**

- Mr. Reed is excited to move forward with his adoption of Bel Air Park and help restore it to become an enjoyable place for the community.
- Commissioners advised him to stay in communication and let us know if there is anything that we can do to assist.

**o Updates on Brookside Park – Tony Dooley Jr.**

- Commissioner Walter Johnson expressed concerns about the Basket Ball Tournament scheduled for August. Issues from last years event included weed smoking, use of profanity, inappropriate music, etc. It was expressed that this should be a family friendly event, especially if it will be endorsed or supported by Parks and Rec.

- Question directed to Director Green: Being that the event is being held at a city park, is there a requirement for the event to provide security? Either private security approved by PD or PD security paid for by the event host?
  - Director Green said he would review the contract and get back to us with an answer.

### **Request for Memorial dedication**

- Mr. Nick Leonard attended the meeting to present on behalf of the family of Sherman Dozier, in their request for the city to allow a memorial on his behalf. The request from the family was still unclear after his presentation. When asked why the city would offer or allow a memorial dedicated to Mr. Sherman Dozier, it was stated that he is a part of the Dozier legacy, the great grandson of Booker T. Dozier (whom the recreation center is named after).
- Commissioner and Chair Butts offered the following:
  - Per Mayor Wimberly we don't see where Mr. Sherman Dozier has contributed to the city enough to honor him.
  - The city cannot offer any financial resources.
    - Mr. Leonard stated "if the city cannot give resources, the family will come up with the funds."
- Mr. Leonard complained of miscommunication, stating that he was told by someone at city hall that this would be a meeting specifically about the memorial. He was unaware that he was attending a regularly scheduled parks and recreation meeting.
- Mr. Leonard was advised to choose a specific park or location where the family wanted to be allowed to install a memorial, paid for by the family, so that the board of commissioners could review it and decide whether or not to recommend that it be approved by city council.
- Mr. Leonard became aggressive in his tone and had to be warned about arguing with the Chair. He also brought weapons into the facility and had to be asked to take them off the premises. (This is not the first incident regarding this).

### **Friends of the Rouge:**

- Hiring and training storm ranger and rainwater specialists (info to be sent via email)
- Free online workshop to learn about rain gardens and how they can help to prevent basement flooding.

### **Commissioners comments/ Information from your councilperson:**

#### **Commissioner Abney-Mitchell:**

- **June is Gun Violence Awareness Month. There will be a National Gun Violence** walk on June 14th. Support by wearing orange ribbons in June. A 6-year old shot his 1-year old brother in his bouncer. Only 1 person showed up to get a free gun lock at the recent event hosted by the City of Inkster.
- The last Saturday of each month is a beautification day from now through September. Dumpsters will be located at Westwood Park, Lemoyne Park, Wheatley Park, and the Dozier.

- Inkster Task Force Farmers Market started June 7th and will continue through October. Wednesdays 4-7pm.

### **Public Comment**

### **Announcements**

- DPS Project Meetings will be held throughout the month of June to inform residents of upcoming projects. (Flyer with specifics was shared)
- Parks & Rec Commission has priority for the room at the top of the stairs. No other meetings or events are to be scheduled in that space during the monthly meeting time slot.
- Amphitheater on Inkster Rd. Is available to rent through Parks & Rec.
- 2 Basketball rims are outside on tennis court and pose a liability as they are unsecured.
- Commissioner Ray Brown was asked to choose between working for the Rec Center and being on the commission. Multiple complaints of a conflict have been received.

### **Adjournment**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Khalidah Muhammad, Recording Secretary