

**CITY OF MISHAWAKA, BOARD OF PARKS & RECREATION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

DATE: August 18, 2015
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Community Room, Battell Community Center
PRESENT: Reg Wagle, John Coppens, Carolyn A. Teeter, Ellen West, Tony Violi, Michael P. Faulkner
NOT PRESENT:
ALSO PRESENT: Terry Zeller, Yvonne Teeter, Robert C. Beutter, Esq.

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Board President, Reg Wagle called the specially scheduled meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Teeter.

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OLD BUSINESS:
None at this time.

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NEW BUSINESS:
Mr. Zeller requested Discussion for Skateboards and other Rolling Devices Rule for Park Properties.

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OPEN FORUM:
Mr. Wagle called for additional questions and/or comments from those in attendance. Jesse Davis of Mishawaka shared his daughters use the parks for practice for inline skating. Mr. Davis stated the only encounters he has had with skateboarders, bikers and inline skaters have been polite. He thinks we need a park for teenagers and young adults.

Mark Osborn of South Bend stated he believes the problem is there is a lack of respect between the skateboarders and adults. Mr. Osborn is a long time skateboarder himself and thinks the City should build a facility that can be used year round. He shared kids would like to be outdoors.

Vandy McCarter of South Bend does not feel children should be banned from the parks. Mr. McCarter shared putting a ramp at each park to help with the skating. He believes Park staff needs to work with the kids and make it convenient for everyone.

Steven Bruster of Mishawaka shared he sees South Bend has a skate park, but he does not see anyone using it. Mr. Bruster believes skateboarders want to skate a street park.

Jeremy Strout of Mishawaka stated a small percentage of skateboarders want to cause damage to things. Mr. Strout does not think banning skateboards are going to stop people from doing damage.

Brandon Mancel of Elkhart shared banning a mode of transportation is absurd. Mr. Mancel feels if you are going to ban skateboarding, you would need to ban bikes. Mr. Mancel believes it is not fair to ban skateboarding and ruin it for the 90% because of the bad 10%.

Sherry Bruster of Mishawaka was happy to see her son skateboarding instead of inside playing video games. Mrs. Bruster shared there is no evidence skateboards cause damage.

Bob Irish of South Bend is a volunteer on CAPS. Mr. Irish travels the riverwalk and doesn't object to skateboarders in the street, on the sidewalks or along the riverwalk. Mr. Irish, does however, have a problem with skateboarders zipping through the parks with no regards to children playing who don't have a fast reaction. He does not want to see skateboarders banned, but would like to see some boundaries set into place.

Brian Mall of South Bend shared the City should build a skate park. Mr. Mall stated there are all kinds of things that cater to the older and younger, but not to teenagers. Building a stake park, Mr. Mall, believes will help with that.

Discussion followed on ideas for a skate park.

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ADJOURNMENT:

As there were no further questions or comments to be made, a motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Coppens and seconded by Mrs. Teeter. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Submitted for Approval to the Board



Yvonne Teeter
Office Coordinator, Parks & Recreation

Approved: _____
Carolyn A. Teeter, Board Secretary