

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held February 21, 2022**

Mayor Favale the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at the East Grand Rapids Community Center and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Commissioners Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Mayor Favale

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Charles; City Attorney Huff; Parks & Recreation Director Melville; Finance Director Seath; Zoning Administrator Gianotti; City Clerk Brower

2022-25. The agenda was approved as published.

2022-26. No public comment was received.

2022-27. Commissioner Pachla reminded everyone to assist the community by clearing ice and snow away from storm drains to lessen the ponding of water during rain and melting snow.

City Manager Charles noted the Public Works Department was prepared for the next wave of forecasted winter weather.

2022-28. Public Hearing and Decision on Request to Rename Franklin Street as Martin Luther King Jr. Street.

City Manager Charles explained the history of the request to rename Franklin Street between Plymouth and the west city limits. He noted there have been suggestions to rename San Lu Rae as well and suggested residents interested in extending the Martin Luther King Jr. street name contact his office to go over the process for requesting this.

Mayor Favale opened a public hearing. The following people were present to express their opinions:

- Gary Stark, 2637 Hampshire Supported the renaming as sending a positive message.

The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

- Rachel Webster, 1623 Franklin	In favor (MARCH Committee Petition)
- Angela Pope, 1717 Franklin	In favor (MARCH Committee Petition)
- Polly Diven, 1727 Franklin	In favor (MARCH Committee Petition)
- Tina Murua, 1031 Lakeside	In favor of name change.
- Haley Raines, 2732 Albert	In favor of name change.
- Leigh Eicke, 1626 Sherman	In favor of name change.
- Angie Walters, non-EGR resident	In favor of name change.
- Leslie Matthews, 2431 Lake Drive	Opposed to name change.
- Kim Smith, 980 Plymouth	In favor of name change.
- Kim Crane, 960 Rosewood	In favor of name change.
- Lindsey Riker, 949 Rosewood	In favor of name change.
- Rachel Cooley, 1117 Eastwood	In favor of name change.
- James & Ashley Storms, 940 Rosewood	In favor of name change.
- Abbie Groff-Blaszak, 2360 Lake Drive	In favor of name change.

No other public comment was received. Mayor Favale closed the public hearing.

- 2022-028-A. Wessely-Arendshorst. That a resolution to rename Franklin Street as Martin Luther King Jr. Street and to retain Franklin as a commemorative designation be adopted as attached in Exhibit “A.”

Commissioner Wessely supported the name change and the chance to join Grand Rapids in celebrating all races.

Commissioner Arendshorst noted this shows solidarity and recognizes the influence of Dr. King on our society. He spoke in support of changing San Lu Rae to Martin Luther King Jr. Street as well. Commissioners Pachla and Schulz agreed.

Commissioner Schwartz suggested undertaking additional beautification efforts on the new Martin Luther King Jr. Street. Mayor Favale agreed this should be looked at.

Mayor Favale thanked the residents who supported this change with so much enthusiasm. She was proud of this action as a significant and intentional way to honor Dr. King and show our commitment to diversity and equity.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7  
Nays: -0-

- 2022-29. Agreement with East Grand Rapids Team Boosters for shared use of Crew Team Boathouse facility at John Collins Park.

Parks & Recreation Director Melville outlined the agreement with the Team Boosters for operating the newly renovated crew team boathouse in John Collins Park. The facility will be owned by the city, but operated by the crew team under the terms of the agreement that spells out permitted uses, utility and maintenance costs, and future provisions if the crew team disbands.

Commissioner Hamrick supported the new facility and the team’s ability to train in their own space and hoped the community would be able to tour the facility when it was finished later this year.

Mayor Favale opened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was received.

- 2022-029-A. Pachla-Schwartz. That a 20-year agreement with the East Grand Rapids Team Boosters d/b/a East Grand Rapids High School Crew Team for use of the boathouse facility within John Collins Park be adopted as attached in Exhibit “B.”

Commissioner Pachla reported the Joint Facilities Committee had reviewed this agreement. He applauded the cooperation between the city and crew team to allow this great program to expand in such a nice facility.

Commissioner Arendshorst noted the Parks & Recreation Commission had reviewed the agreement as well.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7  
Nays: -0-

- 2022-30. Agreement with Aquinas College for use of Community Pool.

Parks & Recreation Director Melville explained that Aquinas College had started a collegiate swimming team and approached the city about renting the High School/Community Pool for their programs. Staff has worked out an agreement to rent the high school pool facility during the times it is not being used for school, community or city uses. The three-year agreement sets lower rates for the first year and then increases over time as the Aquinas program grows. Costs will be monitored to ensure the rental rates are covering expenses. An additional benefit will be possibly hiring some of these college athletes as lifeguards for other programs. He noted Aquinas has been using the pool for a few months now and have been very responsive to working out scheduling issues, parking locations, building access, etc. Mr. Melville reported the Joint Facilities Committee and school staff have worked through the details and have approved of the agreement, scheduling policy which gives priority to school and community events, and the cost-sharing arrangements.

City Manager Charles noted there were termination clauses for both sides if the arrangement is not working out. He further noted Aquinas is not bumping any current programs from their time slots and were taking slots that were currently not being utilized while K-12 students were in school. Aquinas is paying more than other community programs. He stated lifeguard staffing shortages have affected many pool programs in recent months but hoped the proposed pay increase and the introduction of new athletes to the facility would result in some of them being hired as lifeguards.

Parks & Recreation Director Melville answered several questions about scheduling priorities and reiterated that Aquinas is renting unused timeslots and not causing other programs to be rescheduled, and would not be allowed to bump other programs in the future.

Mr. Charles noted the arrangement will not be a significant financial benefit in the first few years, but will cover expenses, and will provide more revenue in future years and is expected to ease staffing issues.

Commissioner Schulz supported the idea of assisting Aquinas while providing a development path for high school swimmers to advance into college swimming.

Mayor Favale and Commissioner Hamrick were happy the program would be using open time slots and would not affect current programs.

Commissioner Pachla highlighted the fact that more than one program can use the pool if either program is not utilizing all of the available lanes.

Mayor Favale opened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was received.

The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this agenda item:

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| - Adam Panter, 2820 Lake Drive | Opposed to Aquinas because of already limited availability |
| - Steve Metsker, 1416 Laurel   | Opposed to Aquinas because of already limited availability |
| - Julie Metsker, 1820 Lake Dr  | Opposed to Aquinas because of already limited availability |
| - Gwen Wallin, 2538 Beechwood  | Opposed to Aquinas because of already limited availability |

2022-030-A. Arendshorst-Schulz. That a three-year pool use agreement with Aquinas College Swim Team for annual use of the Community Pool be adopted as attached in Exhibit "C."

Commissioner Schwartz was generally supportive of the agreement, but asked that staff continue listening to other pool users and residents' concerns about pool use and adjust or terminate if needed. City Manager Charles invited any residents concerned to contact him to discuss the situation and work with staff to rectify any issues.

Commissioners Arendshorst and Pachla stated their initial concerns raised by resident emails over the weekend had been alleviated by the information provided by staff.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7  
Nays: -0-

2022-31. Resolution Authorizing Sale of Bonds for Parks Improvement Millage Projects.

City Manager Charles explained the recommendation to sell \$5.180 million in bonds to finance the Manhattan Park projects, trail upgrades, waterfront park and the playgrounds identified in the Parks Improvement Millage. The sale would take place the end of March if the market is favorable. He also requested authority to execute agreements for bond counsel and financial advisor to complete the sale.

2022-031-A. Pachla-Arendshorst. That a resolution authorizing the issuance of up to \$5.180 million in bonds for the Parks Improvement Millage projects be adopted as attached in Exhibit "D" and that the City Manager be authorized to execute letters of engagement for bond counsel and financial advisor services as contained in the agenda materials.

Commissioner Pachla reported the Finance Committee had reviewed the materials in depth and were comfortable with the bond sale and the advisors recommended.

Commissioner Wessely stated he was happy to see the bond issuance and millage rate lower than proposed.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2022-32. Resolution of Support for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for Manhattan Park Improvements.

Parks & Recreation Director Melville explained that as part of the Parks Improvement Millage package, the city had committed to seeking outside funding to reduce the millage amount levied to taxpayers. Staff has prepared a grant application for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund seeking \$300,000 of the total \$1,300,000 for the Manhattan Park splash pad, park amenities, shade structures, restroom facility and site preparation. Mr. Melville reported a public hearing on the grant application had been held on February 14 at the Parks & Recreation Commission, but no public comment was received. If the resolution of support and commitment of \$600,000 in city funding is approved, the grant application will be submitted by the April 1 deadline.

Commissioner Hamrick questioned whether all of the items listed in the grant application would have to be constructed or if the city could decide against one or more items and still receive the grant. Mr. Melville stated that public input or funding shortages could adjust the size or specific amenities, but the DNR would require the items to be built to receive the funding or would require the city to withdraw from the grant and reapply under the new plans. Commissioner Hamrick asked if the city would have to include a splash pad in some form if it was in the application. Mr. Melville stated yes, the splash pad would have to be constructed or the city would have to refuse the grant.

Commissioner Pachla asked how important a splash pad was to the scoring of the application and whether any other possible locations had been identified. Mr. Melville stated splash pads usually have universal access for all ages and physical abilities, so they score well on the points scale when ranking the components of a grant application. He further noted he did not feel there were any other suitable or available locations for a splash pad.

Mayor Favale felt our grant application would be well received because the park and its structures were originally funded by a DNR grant.

Parks & Recreation Director Melville stated the funding decisions will be made in December 2022 or January 2023, and if we receive a grant, we will execute project agreements and begin construction later in 2023.

Mayor Favale opened the meeting for public comment. No public comment was received.

2022-032-A. Schulz-Wessely. That a resolution of support authorizing the submission of an application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for Manhattan Park Improvement Projects be adopted as attached in Exhibit "E."

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2022-33. Zoning Administrator Gianotti presented the 2021 Planning Commission Annual Report. He highlighted an upcoming ordinance amendment proposal for changes to the multi-family residential zoning district that will be coming to the City Commission soon as well as continuing work on the Redevelopment Ready Certification and possible amendments to allow accessory dwelling units throughout the city.

2022-34. Discussion of spring break meeting.

2022-034-A. Shculz-Hamrick. That the city commission meeting of April 4, 2022 be rescheduled to Monday, March 28 at 6 p.m.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

2022-35. Arendshorst-Schwartz. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2022-035-A. Minutes of the regular City Commission meeting held February 7, 2022.

2022-035-B. Payroll disbursements of \$240,690.20; county and school disbursements of \$235,358.12; county and school disbursements of \$241,270.88, and total remaining disbursements of \$298,377.40.

2022-035-C. The appointment of Lauren Jacoby of 1633 Amberley Court to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a partial term ending June 30, 2022.

2022-035-D. The establishment of June 6, 2022 as the date to hold public hearings for the budget and for delinquent accounts, and to hold a special meeting to adopt the budget.

2022-035-E. The proposed list of meeting dates for the City Commission, Planning Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Library Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Review.

2022-035-F. A new wage scale for seasonal part-time positions effective March 1, 2022 as contained in the agenda materials.

2022-035-G. The purchase of desktop computers from Dell Technologies in the amount of \$12,129.30 and notebook computers with docking stations from Sehi Computer Products in the amount of \$5,516.00.

Yeas: Arendshorst, Hamrick, Pachla, Schulz, Schwartz, Wessely and Favale – 7

Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until March 7, 2022.

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Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution renaming Franklin Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Street  
B – Agreement with Crew Team for boathouse at John Collins Park  
C – Agreement with Aquinas College for use of Community Pool  
D – Resolution authorizing sale of Parks Improvement Millage bonds  
E – Resolution of support for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.