



MEETING MINUTES

GRAND RAPIDS COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION



Held: April 12, 2021

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The Council of The Village of Grand Rapids convened in regular session from 7:00 P.M. to 7:51 P.M. in the Old Fire Hall. Mayor John Berry called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

Carol Steck - Present
Mark Sarkan - Present
Bob Krabill – Absent

Rachel Smith – Present
Jody Donsbach – Present
Rick Tolles – Present

EMPLOYEES: Chad Hoffman and Kristel Beyer

VISITORS: Carole Sarkan and Dona Curtis

MINUTES:

Smith made a motion, seconded by Donsbach to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 22, 2021.

BILLS:

Donsbach made a motion, seconded by Smith to approve the bills dated March 19 – April 8, 2021.

Votes were: Donsbach – yes Sarkan- yes Tolles – yes
 Smith – yes Steck – yes

MOTION APPROVED

Kristel stated the Kalida Truck bill should read Auto Value instead.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS APPEARING BEFORE COUNCIL:

Carole Sarkan stated the Arts Council is putting together a plan for the summer for the Jazz Fest. She was wondering if the Jazz Fest would be allowed to happen. The reason she is asking is because she heard that the Apple Butter Festival is happening so she thought the Jazz Fest would also be possible. The Jazz Fest takes some time to organize so they would like to know sooner than later. Mayor stated he discussed with the Historical Society that they would start planning for the Festival but to be prepared for it to not happen just like last year. They are pretty optimistic since they put out a press release and advertised on television. Mayor got a call from the Governor’s office this afternoon that they possibly could have the festival if they can guarantee groups of ten people and abiding by the 6 feet apart. Mayor is unsure how they can do this at the festival. Mayor stated the Applebutter Fest and all other event applications need to provide how they will handle the covid restrictions in order to be approved. Donsbach stated as it stands there has not been anything approved at this time. Mayor stated the chances of having the Jazz Fest would be more likely than the Applebutter Festival. There are restricted points of access to control the flow of people on the tow path.

Administrator stated they could put x's on the grass to show places to sit socially distanced as well. Carole asked when the application needs to be turned in. Mayor stated as soon as she can but just remember to include the covid restrictions you will be complying to as well as placing signage for mask wearing. Sarkan asked if it would be alright to mark x's on the grass, Administrator stated to use marking paint which comes right off. Carole stated the Governor will be making an announcement June 1st on opening certain parks would that make a difference in this case. Mayor said he thinks if he opens everything up then we will probably still have to maintain social distancing. Administrator stated the Jazz Fest and Rhythm on the River would be the most likely events to happen since there are restricted access points on the tow path. Carole asked where the applications are found. Kristel stated they are on the Village's website and she would be willing to scan and email a prior completed application for her reference. Mayor stated Council would like these things to happen if possible. Steck stated if the numbers sky rocket then everything could be cancelled again. Smith stated to let the vendors know that the Jazz Fest would be contingent on Covid restrictions.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Deputy asked if there are any questions or concerns in the Village. Administrator stated there is someone riding a dirt bike tearing up the mulch in the old elementary playground.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor stated he received a call from a lady that lives on the westend of Third Street. She would like to have a dog park in town. She also wanted a spot at the state park docks to park her boat and they are full, she asked why we don't allow this in the Villages docks. Mayor told her that these docks are to be used for people to come in and visit the town at a first come first serve basis and not to be rented. Mayor stated she mentioned she would take care of the dog park and people would have to have their dogs registered before they can use the dog park. Dogs have to be free from diseases and people need to clean up after their own pets. Mayor doesn't know where we could even put a dog park. Administrator stated that most communitys have their churches taking care of things like dog parks. Mayor stated she had a spot picked out but it is not Village property.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator stated we received the preliminary drawing for river crossings plat 1. The Planning Commssion approves these, they can make changes or deny. If Council has any input on this then to get that information to him and he will take to the Planning Commission. David Fowler called this morning, he will be getting an application to Council for the movie night that will be sponsored by the Arts Council. Administrator told him to include the covid restrictions he will be following. Administrator stated the insurance company drafted a letter in response to the Seab's letter. The Mayor signed the pipeline sale agreement with Suburban but we have not heard anything back. Administrator stated Matt and Vance Weaver will be at the next meeting to get a signature for

his eagle scout project. Administrator stated he emailed them about items that we need prior to final approval.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Gave Council the March 2021 Bank Reconciliation with accompanying Bank Statements. Gave Finance Committee Appropriation Status, Revenue Status and Fund Listing.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES: None

ORDINANCES: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mayor said the Historical Society wanted to come today to discuss the Applebutter Festival. He will tell them to add on their application about some plan on how they will be obiding by the covid restrictions of distancing, masks and busing people. Donsbach stated she is incredibly diappointed. This has put a lot of people in precarious predicaments. This is not the first time things like this has happened and she is extremely disappointed. Mayor told them to go ahead and plan for it but to realize that it may not be happening just like last year. The Society has a drop dead date of Septemeber 1st. Smith stated but that doesn't mean you put out a press release that it is happening. Mayor agreed. Sarkan stated we might be at the point to open up things on the tow path but not at the point to do large things like the festival. Should we set up some guidelines for people to follow in order to use public property. Sarkan stated he is on the safety committee at church and they set guidelines to help people to continue being safe. Sarkan thinks we should write these guidelines for people to follow. Mayor stated Krabill sent him a message. Krabill was wondering if the approval process should be two fold at this time, have them come in and let us know how they will follow health guidelines. Find out what last Council Meeting date coincides with their cancellation date. Tentative approval based on presentation and final approval or cancellation on drop dead date. Smith feels we don't necessarily need our own guidelines we can follow the state guidelines but they need to have a plan on how they will enforce it. Smith agrees with the double approval process that Krabill mentioned. Mayor talked with the Governors Liason she stated she is on the German American Festival Committee and they are in the same situation that they don't know if they will be able to have it or not. Mayor stated its not like we don't want this event to happen but we need to be cautious.

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor talked to Sons of the American Legion about taking care of the flags on the poles and when they need to be half-staff, this is what John Schlotz used to do. They stated they weren't aware he did that but would start doing it. Mayor also let them know there is a flag that needs replaced. Mayor is going to call Harm Benschofer to see if they are planning on doing something like last year for Memorial Day.

COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Smith made a motion, seconded by Steck, to adjourn.

Votes were: Sarkan - yes Tolles – yes Smith – yes
 Steck – yes Donsbach - yes

MOTION APPROVED

The meeting was adjourned. The next scheduled meeting is April 26, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. at the Grand Rapids Old Fire Hall.



Kristel Beyer, Fiscal Officer



John Berry, Mayor

All formal actions of the Council of The Village of Grand Rapids concerning and relating to the adoption of resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.