

**CITY OF REED CITY  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
January 6, 2025**

Planning Commissioner Dawn Montague called the meeting to order at 5:36 P.M. City Hall 227 E Lincoln, Reed City, MI.

Present: Rich Saladin, Roger Meinert, Karen McKinney, Timothy Locker, Allison Langworthy, Linda Obermeier, Trevor Guiles, Sarah Spruit and Dawn Montague were present. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag. There were citizens in the audience.

Agenda: Motion by McKinney, seconded by Spruit, **CARRIED**, to approve the agenda. Affirmed by voice vote.

Minutes: Motion by McKinney, seconded by Langworthy, **CARRIED**, to approve the minutes of December 2, 2024, regular meeting with amendments. Affirmed by voice vote.

Old Business: Kayla Palmer updated the board on the survey results conducted concerning the City of Reed City's parks and recreation.

Reed City Parks and Recreation Summary of Conclusions

**SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the above results, the City Planning Commission considered the following factors, among others, as it updated the goals, objectives, and action program for the Reed City Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

- 54% of the respondents are residents of the City and 46% reside in the surrounding region. 74% of the respondents indicated their recreational activities are primarily passive activities such as walking, picnicking, nature/bird watching. 73% of respondent utilize park facilities mainly in summer and on weekends. 76% of respondents have households with 2 or less children.
- Most attended parks were in order Westerberg Park at 32%, Rambadt Park at 29%, the Depot Park at 19.5%, the White Pine/Pere Marquette Trails at 16.3%, and Linear Park/Little Mac at 5.8%. The median number of visits to all the parks per year is approximately 1 per month.
- Generally, maintenance of all recreation facilities appears to be adequate as a majority of respondents (91%) expressing an opinion felt that all facilities were either in "fair" or "good" condition with a median score of 6.5 on a scale of 1-10. Overall, Park safety scored at a security level of 62 out of 100.
- Rambadt Park was scored at 36.5% of reaching the fullest potential along with Crossroads Park at 31.9%. Westerberg Park was viewed at the most underutilized park at 38% with the Linear Park second lowest at 18.4%. For the highest priority of parks for improvement, Westerberg Park at 55.7% Rambadt Park at 54% were the two highest.
- Over 81% of respondents feel that there are adequate park facilities that you can walk or bicycle to and not drive. Nearly 66% of respondents view the overall barrier free accessibility of the parks as far to excellent. This needs to be weighted those 177 respondents skipped this question so there appears to be room for improvement.
- The top 10 recreational activities of biggest need for improvement based on respondents in order are as follows: Outdoor fitness – 90.7%, Improved concessions – 89.4%, Pickleball facility – 89.3% Kayak facilities – 88.4%, Splash pad – 85.8%, Tennis – 81.65%, Dog Park – 81.1%, Movies in the Park – 80.8% Fitness Groups – 78.9% and Fishing – 71.6%.
- On average 66% of respondents feel that the City communication to them about parks & recreation facilities/programs is fair to good. The most desired form of communication is by improving social media. Second at 49.6% would be respondents utilizing the City website for recreation opportunities and facilities. There appears to be an opportunity for improvement in communication.
- 60% of the respondents believe the City needs to focus on the development and expansion of anon-motorized path systems with 50.9% in favor of additional sidewalks and 41.9% preferring separate nonmotorized paths.

With the potential development of the Downtown Pocket Park in 2025, the following where the top five envisioned activities, programs, or events: Splash pad/water feature – 62.8%, Festival & Special events – 58.7%, Movies in the park – 43.5%, Music in the park – 35.1% and Ice skating – 31.7%.

Much of the discussion was geared towards analyzing the survey and the results. A few suggestions were to improve the parks restrooms, to install speedbumps in Westerburg park, improve lighting on trails and add garbage cans. Skate Park, and other items were mentioned that are in the existing parks and recreation plan. Audience member voiced displeasure of appearance of the snow pile the city unloads snow removal at the Westerburg park.

City Manager/Zoning Administrator's Report

Rich Saladin reported on the following:

- Pocket Park has had several bids come in; engineer Kayla Palmer was on site to answer any questions from potential contractors.
- Lights on 220<sup>th</sup> should be up and running by Friday.
- A \$4,000 tree grant from DTE was received for the second time in the past three years, City Manager acknowledged Kathy Fiebig for her tree expertise and volunteering time maintaining the trees.

Audience: None

Adjourn: Montague adjourned the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Amanda Grant  
Recording Secretary