
PARKS, RECREATION AND CEMETERY BOARD MINUTES

February 25, 2025
Regular Meeting - 5:30 PM

1) **CALL TO ORDER**

IN A REGULAR SESSION held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 5:45 PM in the Public Services Building, Training room, 900 S. Marshall, Marshall, MI 49068, the Marshall Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Board was called to order by: Chair Robbins at 5:45 pm

2) **ROLL CALL**

Roll was called by: Chair Robbins

Present: Board Member Jim Coury, Alex Culver, Natalie Rector, Mitch Robbins, Zachary Shippell and Gerald Underhill.

Staff Present: Justin Miller, Recreation Superintendent
Linda Urquhart, Deputy Clerk

Absent: None

3) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - Items can be added or deleted from the Agenda by board action.

Motion by Chair Robbins. Approved the agenda as presented.

4) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - Items can be added or deleted from the Agenda by board action.

Motion by Chair Robbins. No minutes were presented for approval.

5) **PUBLIC COMMENT** Persons addressing the board are required to give their name and address for the record when called upon by the Chair. Members of the public shall be limited to speaking for a maximum of five (5) minutes.

Emily Emersen-Rich, of Marshall - spoke of the former Poor house and Cemetery, also connecting all the trails in the city.

6) **OLD BUSINESS** None

None

7) **NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Robbins: opened up discussion for St. Mary Poor House cemetery. Emily Emersen-Rich stated there are 203 memorial sites that are not attached to the cemetery. The grass is overgrown so they are not visible. Construction/tree removal could interfere with the graves.

Topic A: St. Mary's Poor House:

Emily Emerson-Rich stated that it is believed there may be an old cemetery in the area where the tree clearing for new construction is being done. A board member stated that the cemetery is owned and maintained by St. Mary's.

Topic B: Trails:

Emily Emerson-Rich stated that Marshall is a missing link on many trails. The board stated that there are several groups working in the county to close the loop on the trails. They are working on as many off-road trails as possible, but some of it is a matter of waiting as some locals are not supportive. The board stated that there are plans for connecting the City to the property located near the Blue Oval factory which will include a trail.

Robbins introduced a late attendee-Ian Campbell-Chair of MACC. Marshall Area Conservation Committee- a newly formed group. Update-meeting tomorrow @ 6:30, attend online option. The future of MACC, the tree-planting event, is coming up. Ford is funding the tree-planting event on 4-26-25. Looking for volunteers. A river clean-up event is scheduled for this spring and a kayaking event this fall.

8) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS/NEW BUSINESS

Robbins introduced a late attendee: See New Business

Trails: See New Business

St. Mary's Poor House: See New Business

A. Riverwalk

Justin stated that this past fall the section from Stuart's Landing too halfway to S Marshall Ave. was rebuilt, with a total project cost of \$340,000. The remainder of that portion is in rough shape, so City Council has approved the application for a DNR trust fund grant with City matching funds, and, if approved, intends to apply for a Community grant to complete the rebuild of the section from Stuart's to S Marshall. After that, repairs will continue on the remainder of the riverwalk as money allows, and the city will be coming up with a plan for future major repairs to the aging infrastructure. Any repairs will match in material to the materials used for the recent rebuild.

B. Skate Park

Justin stated the skate park is in disrepair, and they are applying for a grant to the Cronin Foundation with a City match to rebuild the park. He is working with a company to get multiple design options for what could be done with the money if it is received, and intends to form a committee to get community buy in on the project, which includes making it an all-wheel skate park. The board presented additional grant options for both the skate park and the riverwalk. The board would like to see the bathrooms reopened if possible.

C. Marshall Athletic field expansion project

Justin stated the project is slated to start this spring with construction being completed by this fall, with the original base bid plan. The board stated that the landscape for the project should include plants that wouldn't create a mess.

9) RECREATION REPORT

Justin discussed some upcoming events for the recreation department. The board questioned if it was possible to get some port-a-potties at the ball fields closer to the playground and back fields that are far away from the current restroom. The board

questioned what the funds from programming go to: rec department staffing and the concession stand at the ballfields.

10) PARKS REPORT

Justin discussed struggles with the fireplace at the Cronin Millrace Pavilion and the trees that were planted at the Waterway day event would be transplanted to other places throughout the city. He stated that the luminary event at Brooks was well attended and a nice event.

11) CEMETERY REPORT

Phil will have something for the next meeting.

12) BOARD REPORTS

Robbins: Next Meeting 4-22-25 at 5:30pm.

Mac meeting 4-23-25

Tree planting on 4-26-25. Ian will get more information.

13) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm by Chair Robbins

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda Urquhart
Admin Asssistant