

**FREMONT AREA  
PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC FORUM MINUTES**

**Thursday, August 25, 2011  
Fremont Area District Library Community Room**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Todd Blake.

**Park & Recreation Members Present:** Todd Blake, Bryan Kolk, Jim Featherstone, Roger Tuuk, Pam Zuchowski and Becky Content. Brian Hettinger, Marian Oosterhouse, Jean Sherman and Shirley Hooker were absent.

**Public Present:** Mayor James Rynberg, City Manager Bryan Gruesbeck, FPS Superintendent James Hieftje, FPS Board Chair Anita Osterman, Zach Lienau, Richard & Joyce Gale, Jeanie Caris, Terri Blake, Fremont Councilmember Dick Conley, Bridgeton Twp Supervisor Michael Reagan, Sheridan Twp Clerk Maggie Kolk, Dayton Twp Clerk Bill Kunnen and Lindsay Hager of Hager Consulting

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Roger, seconded by Pam to approve the meeting agenda; motion approved.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Roger, seconded by Jim to approve the committee meeting minutes of June 28, 2011; motion approved.

**Public Comments**

There were none.

**Discussion on Establishment of a Recreation Authority**

Todd gave a brief history of the Committees successes over the last ten years, having been the portal to obtaining more than a million \$ in recreational grant funding for the Fremont community. He also described the Committee's recent and past discussions regarding the establishment of a recreation authority and the potential benefits if one were established. He noted a recreational authority's district should mirror the school district it's within, since those residents would benefit most from its programs and potential facilities.

A recreation authority would have equal representation on the authority board, from all participating jurisdictions within its district. Funding for operational costs would be the greatest obstacle for its success, so a ¼ to ½ millage would most likely be needed. He noted the Michigan Recreation Authorities Act permits up to two (2) mills for operation and capital projects, but the Committee believes a recreation authority in Fremont will only need one (1) mill for operational and future special project costs. A millage would have to be approved by the voters within the district.

Jim Hieftje reported FPS is actively pursuing ideas for repurposing the current high school, since it will become vacant next fall and its facilities still have some valuable assets to offer the community. He suggested an authority could possibly take over the school's community recreation program, which continues to descend in programs and funding. He also noted from it's dissention over the last few years, is why there are so many "club-run" youth recreational programs in Fremont and bringing them all back together for support of an authority may be essential.

Lindsay Hager, of Hager Consulting, summarized his final school board report on repurposing the high school and noted while researching other community recreation programs with pools, he found that millage's, grants and program fees were the common multi-funding mechanisms for the more successful programs. As another possible funding source, he suggested the authority could partner with other organizations that may be willing to work out employee membership-use agreements for use of the pool

or gymnasium. He noted the multi-purpose room and its kitchen facilities being rented out for events could be another potential funding source.

School Board President Anita Osterman announced the Board will be addressing potential ideas for the high school building and its facilities and should be making a decision soon.

Todd reported attending all the local government board meetings within Fremont's school district, to give them an update from the Committee's discussion and help educate them with regards to the potential establishment of a Fremont Area Recreational Authority. He noted today's public forum was to bring all of them together to openly discuss the process to be considered.

The Committee should seek grant funding to perform a feasibility analysis on the potential establishment, operation and funding for an authority in the Fremont area. Hopefully, the analysis will help the community understand what is at stake, what the potentials are and give direction.

Following a future public meeting to discuss the results of a feasibility analysis, the committee will revisit local jurisdictions to seek approval of entering in to an agreement to establish a recreation authority for the Fremont community.

The Committee was in agreement to seek grant funding from the Fremont Area Community Foundation as discussed.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Jim, seconded by Pam to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM; motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd M. Blake, Chair/Secretary