

**VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
VILLAGE COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
NOVEMBER 20, 2019**

President Deborah Lindley called the public hearing to order at 7:15 PM EST. Present in addition to Lindley were Jim Bracewell, Paul Leonard, Blake O'Halloran and Steve Slater.

Leonard moved, seconded by Slater to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Lindley explained that the public hearing was being held to take comments from the public regarding the proposed 2019-2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. She added that many people have been working on the plan for quite a while.

Lindley introduced Abonmarche representative Tony McGhee. McGhee introduced Joelle Regovich who has also worked on the plan.

Slater thanked everyone for responding to the surveys that were sent out and for attending the question and answer sessions. He said that Abonmarche has done a great job.

Tony McGhee said that the Village has to create a parks and recreation master plan every five years if the Village wants to apply for grants. They want to get public input and prioritize projects. The plan started in May and their staff looked at parks, ADA compliance, safety and materials on the ground. They added boating facilities inventory to the plan to allow the Village to apply for waterway grants in the future. He said they received 325 responses to the survey which is a much higher percentage of respondents than normal. There was an open house held on July 27, 2019 for public review and comments, and they put the draft plan together in October.

McGhee highlighted many of the survey results. He said they will incorporate any changes from the Council into the plan and the Council will adopt the plan by resolution on December 18, 2019. They will submit the plan to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by December 31, 2019 and will also send copies to Berrien County and Southwest Michigan Planning Commission. He said that when a plan is written, it is not written in stone and can be amended by following a procedure that takes approximately 90 days.

Lindley opened the public hearing for comments:

Bill Mitchell, 46102 Wildwood – Spoke about the importance of the beaches and the survey results that showed that many people are willing to be taxed or assessed to build revetments and bring back the beaches.

Joe Farwell, 46117 Ely – Said the Master Plan is an incredible report. He spoke about the importance of the beaches and that he thinks the Village Council should become and continue to be leaders to do what they can to fix the beaches.

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Slater who serves as the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee thanked everyone for their comments and all of their input while they were creating the plan. He said they will use this plan as an active document.

Lindley thanked those on the committee and those that were on the committee in the past for all of their work, stating that it is a lot of work. She said this is a document that can be adjusted as needs change. She said that she is glad that everyone is willing to be taxed or assessed as the Village has a long list of wants and needs.

Correspondence: None

With no further comments, Lindley closed the Public Hearing at 7:36 PM EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary J. Robertson
Clerk/Treasurer