

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
May 3, 2005

Chair Hilliard called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the Parks Maintenance Building in Mayors' Riverfront Park.

Roll Call:

Members Present: John Hilliard, Patricia Klein, Josh DeBruyn, Gary Wager, Garrylee McCormick

Members Absent: Lance Ferraro (excused), Larry Haley

City Commission Liaison: Don Cooney arrived at 5:20 pm.

Staff Present: Frances Jewell, Pat Vinge

Procedural Matters: None

Introduction of Guests: None

Changes to the Agenda: None

Special Presentations: None.

Approval of Minutes: The April 5, 2005 minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Youth Programs—KYDNetwork meeting and status

Chair Hilliard attended the KYDNetwork (Kalamazoo Youth Development Network) meeting. There was discussion regarding what could be done to “pick up the slack” if some City programs were cut due to budget reductions. A task force was formed to look into this.

Woods Lake

A meeting has been scheduled with FOWL (Friends of Woods Lake), the City Manager, and Frances Jewell to discuss Woods Lake issues. On May 21, 2005 FOWL has planned a clean-up day at Woods Lake Park with a cook-out after the event. Parks and Recreation staff will provide trash bags and pick them up after the event. Staff will send an announcement to the CMO for the City Commission meeting as well as send out the PSA that FOWL provided to the media. A small grant was given to FOWL for this event from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

City of Portage—Area Parks and Recreation Advisory Boards Meeting, April 13

This was a good meeting. Fees and fee structures were discussed. Kalamazoo County and Comstock Township has park fees to enter some of their parks. Kalamazoo County opened its parks for year round use with a \$20 winter fee of which users were supportive. Closing hours for some jurisdictions are listed as sunset, which is published in the newspapers, rather than dusk. Frances suggested that when City park signs are fabricated again, “sunset” rather than “dusk” will be used. It was suggested

that this annual area advisory board meeting might be held in Kalamazoo next year. This will be pursued in the fall.

Bylaws (review and changes)

John Hilliard excused himself at 5:30 pm for a previous engagement.; Don Cooney arrived at 5:20 pm. Vice-Chair DeBruyn resumed the meeting with discussion of proposed changes to the Bylaws. The changes discussed will be included in the agenda packet for the June 7, 2005 meeting. There was also discussion concerning the process for amendments and ratification of the Bylaws. Frances will discuss with City Clerk Borling if a simple or super majority is more appropriate for amendments and ratification.

New Business: None

Event Approvals:

The Board unanimously recommended that the City Manager approve the following special events.

- West Main Hill Neighborhood Association, Annual WMH/USTA Picnic -- Henderson Park, August 9, 2005
- Worship Services and Picnic Activities, Mt. Zion Baptist Church -- LaCrone Park, July 31, 2005
- Edison Neighborhood Association, Cultural Diversity Celebration -- Upjohn Park, July 16, 2005
- Hospice of Greater Kalamazoo, 15th Annual Greatest Kazoo Duck Race -- Milham Park, August 6, 2005

Informational for PRAB: Fair Trade Fair on Earth Day has been rescheduled to May 21, 2005 due to inclement weather.

Comments:

Citizen-Non Agenda Items

None

Commission Liaison

None

Parks and Recreation Director—Monthly Report

- Frances shared that 3 area swim teams lease agreements for the use of Kik Pool, providing revenue of \$9,300, will be considered by the City Commission at an upcoming meeting. Kik Pool will be closed to host the annual Great Lakes Aquatic U.S.S. Swim Meet, June 24-26. Spectators are welcome for a small fee. Season swim pass holders are being notified of the closing, signs will be posted at the pool at least one week prior to event and the media will receive a PSA.
- Staff applied for a \$10,000 grant from General Mills for an outdoor education program; grant not received.
- Parks and Recreation is partnering with the Vine Neighborhood to provide "Art in the Park" for youth 5-12 years old, 3 days a week at Davis Park.
- There will be a clean-up day at LaCrone Park on May 21 sponsored by the Deacons Conference.

- Park staff are working with a citizen on some possible plantings/landscaping for one of the entrances to Spring Valley Park.
- The public may remove tulips from Bronson Park and City Hall starting at 5:00 pm on Friday, May 6. On May 26, Kalamazoo in Bloom will be planting annuals in Bronson Park.
- Survey work is being done in Blanche Hull Park to connect the Portage Bicentennial Trail with Kalamazoo. Frances also reported that a bridge will be installed across Portage Creek at the Rose Park Veterans' Memorial, eventually connecting the Mayors' Riverfront Park and Red Arrow Golf Course Trail to the downtown.

Staff Comments

None

Board Member Comments

- Pat Klein shared that Jo Jacobs was concerned about Parks and Recreation adhering to Title 9, equality for male and females. The Parks and Recreation Summer Activity Guide references an activity for youth entitled "Pom Pom Princesses." Ms. Jacobs was concerned that not only did this appear to exclude boys (due to the name of the activity) but it also reinforced a stereotype about girls that Ms. Jacobs believed was inappropriate. Frances agreed with the concerns Ms. Jacobs had raised and said she would speak to staff about the stereotyping issue and would ask that in the future the activity be renamed, possibly "Pom Pom Kids."

Pat Klein had a concern about inconsistency expressed in the Parks and Recreation Activity Guide concerning swimming at Woods Lake Park. In the text, the Guide references that "Woods Lake Park does not allow swimming," however, in the matrix for the Park map in the Guide, one of the amenities listed for Woods Lake Park is swimming. Frances shared that the Guide was already at the printer when discussion began on whether and what kind of signage needed to be placed at the Park related to swimming. Next year, the wording in the Guide will be changed and the matrix and the text will concur.

- There was discussion about the proposed signage at Woods Lake Park. Frances shared that on April 26, Parks and Recreation staff and the City's Risk Manager spoke with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Association (MMRMA) to ask if there were alternatives to the signage MMRMA had originally recommended which was "No Swimming Allowed." At this point, staff have not heard back from MMRMA with an alternative recommendation. Frances shared that Kalamazoo County will continue to pay for the testing of the water at Woods Lake.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Vinge, Recording Secretary