

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
June 7, 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, Gary Wager, Garrylee McCormick, Lance Ferraro, Larry Haley

Members Absent: Josh DeBruyn (excused)

City Commission Liaison: absent

Staff Present: Frances Jewell, Pat Vinge

Procedural Matters: None

Introduction of Guests: Kelvin (KB) Brown on behalf of the "Tupac Shakur Keep the Peace Day" event was introduced.

Changes to the Agenda: One event was added under Event Approvals.

Special Presentations: None.

Approval of Minutes: The May 3, 2005 minutes were unanimously approved. John Hilliard noted that most of the tulips were gone prior the official time for "tulip pulling." It was suggested that next year it could be announced that City residents could pull the tulips earlier than non-City residents as well as having staff (if available) or PRAB members "patrol" the park the day of the tulip pull.

Old Business:

Woods Lake

Gary Wager reported that the Woods Lake meeting on May 9, 2005 with the City Manager, Commissioners Cooney and Hopewell, Frances Jewell, Pat Klein, Frank Wolf, John Hilliard, and Gary Wager was productive. The inappropriate play equipment will be removed from the park and signage indicating "No Lifeguards" will be posted. The City Manager suggested that a design firm might play a *pro-bono* role in helping to put together a design for the park. All parties agreed to work together and partner to find ways to fund improvements in the park and keep the park open.

The May 21, FOWL (Friends of Woods Lake) Clean-up Day was a great success with over 50 volunteers. Several Commissioners, the Mayor, and the Acting City Manager assisted in the clean-up; Parks staff provided trash bags and picked up the trash that was collected. John Hilliard thanked Mark Polega for this assistance. FOWL plans another work day to plant erosion control native species (PENS project). They have received funds from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation for the plantings and the Gospel Mission and the ARK have agreed to provide volunteers for the project.

By-Laws

Members reviewed the changes from last month and Chair Hilliard asked that a clean copy be provided at the July 5 meeting for approval. Frances shared that the By-Laws do not need to be approved by the City Commission, however, the Clerk will include them in the Clerk's report to the Commission.

John suggested that the agenda move to Event Approval since Kelvin (KB) Brown was here on behalf of the Keep the Peace event.

Event Approval

- "Tupac Shakur Keep the Peace Day," Douglass Community Association & Deacons' Conference/Comm-Unity Responders, LaCrone Park, June 18, 2005 – 9:00 am until 7:00 pm ***[Because this event was requested to be held a week and a half after the June 7 PRAB meeting, an e-mail/phone poll was conducted. Members chose to discuss the event at the next meeting rather than voting by e-mail/phone poll.]***

Mr. Brown (KB) explained that he was here to answer any questions the Board might have about the "Tupac Shakur Keep the Peace Day" event. Pat Klein questioned whether girls would be excluded from the event. KB said that although the event is targeted at African American males, stressing the importance of "connecting fathers with sons and sons with fathers" that all are welcome. The Deacons' Conference is providing other activities at the park the same day. Garrylee McCormick requested that the Board recommend that the park fee for this event be waived. Larry Haley supported waiving the fee and emphasized that African American males, not just in Kalamazoo, face incredible obstacles related to street violence, lack of male role models, and over representation of minorities in the criminal system. He urged that it is critical that positive change occurs and believed events like the "Keep the Peace Day" must be ongoing. Lance Ferraro stated that while this is a good program, everyone should be treated the same and cautioned that it would be difficult to refuse waiving other fees if this event fee were waived. Pat Klein suggested that PRAB work on a policy recommendation for waiving fees. Garrylee moved that PRAB approve the "Keep the Peace Day" event and ask the City Commission to waive the fee for this event and that PRAB further investigate a policy on fee waiver. The motion passed with a 5 to 1 vote. ***[Josh DeBruyn was unable to attend this meeting, however, he requested that his e-mailed response be considered during the discussion; this is attached with the minutes.]***

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

- The River, Celebration Service, Upjohn Park, May 29, 2005, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm ***[Phone/e-mail poll, all PRAB members approved this event.]***
- Boys and Girls Club, Community Cookout/Family Activities, Southside Park, August 6, 2005, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
- Korean War Veterans' Association of Kalamazoo, Bronson Park, July 27, 2005, 11:00-11:30 am
- Kalamazoo Amateur Athletic Federation, Kiracofe Tournament, VerSluis/Dickinson Park July 15, 16, 17, 2005 (request to sell beer)
- Habitat for Humanity Commissioning Service (First Presbyterian Church) Bronson Park—Sunday, June 12, 2005, 10:45-11:45 am ***[added to agenda]***

New Business:

PRAB Survey—Chair Hilliard asked that this be tabled until the next meeting.

Board Member Applications

No new applications have been received. Frances and John Hilliard encouraged the Board to actively search for new members. Chair Hilliard moved that the Board request another 6 month extension of Garrylee McCormick's term, extending it to December 31, 2005. This passed unanimously.

Procedure for Phone/E-mail Event Approval

It was agreed that if an event were to occur prior to a PRAB meeting or closely thereafter, that a phone/e-mail poll could be conducted. The results of the poll would be reflected in the minutes of the next meeting. It was emphasized that discussion of events is important to PRAB and that the poll method should only be used when absolutely necessary. Frances shared that several departments are involved in event approval and in order that an event be approved by the CMO in a timely manner, sometimes polling is the only option.

Comments:

Citizen-Non Agenda Items

None

Commission Liaison

None

Parks and Recreation Director—Monthly Report

- Frances shared information about the Friends of Recreation annual Golf Classic to be held at Eastern Hills Golf Course on Monday, July 18, 2005. She challenged PRAB to both recruit golfers and secure prizes for the outing's silent auction.
- Parks and Recreation has received the following grants: Junior League/Boundless Playground in Upjohn Park, \$492,075; United Way/Safe Summer event, \$2,600; Kalamazoo Community Foundation, Good Neighbor grant/Safe Summer event, \$1,000.
- The Safe Summer Kickoff will be held in Mayors' Riverfront Park on Tuesday, June 14, from 2-8 pm. It is a youth serving agency collaborative event to publicize activities available to youth this summer. Frances gave members a Safe Summer Calendar of events and the website for Safe Summer events (www.kalamazoo-safe-summer.org). Gary Wager asked if a link could be created to the Oakwood website and Frances suggested that he call Denise Siegel to facilitate this.
- There will be two Dog Park meetings: June 9 (the working committee) and June 14 at the Fairmont Neighborhood Association meeting to explain the concept to the association and request their support. The proposed Dog Park would be in Fairmount Park on North Prairie. McKercher (MRC Industries) is very interested in training their clients to work at the park and would pay their clients through MRC funds. Frances shared that the committee will start fund raising soon for the Dog Park and will look at the same format the Junior League and Boundless

Playground utilized (funds secured by a non-City organization and then granted to the City).

- Frances shared that the playground site at King-Westwood Elementary School (MLK) was already full. Kalamazoo Township is not offering summer youth playground sites this year and this has resulted in the MLK site being full with primarily non-residents. John asked if another site could be made available and Frances said that Parks and Recreation was using all of the KPS school sites that were available to the City. Because of the need for indoor facilities in inclement weather, playground sites cannot generally be held in the City parks. An exception has been made at a collaborative program with Vine Neighborhood and Parks and Recreation at Davis St. Park for “Art in the Park.”
- Frances said that she would check with the City Attorney’s Office to determine what procedural issues might be involved with event fee waiver.

Staff Comments

None

Board Member Comments

- Garrylee said that the flower border volunteers planted at Crane Park was beautiful. He was disappointed that the Parks Manager did not come out to Crane Park to let the volunteers meet him and to thank them for their work. Frances shared that although Mark Polega, Parks Manager, is currently severely short staffed, that someone from Parks and Recreation should have been there to show the City’s appreciation for what the volunteers have done. Frances will send Sandy Adams, volunteer coordinator for Crane Park a letter of thanks. Garrylee also expressed concern that the pine trees which were to be planted at the back of Dutton Street Park have not been planted, as well as the concern that weed whippers have girdled and killed some of the trees in the park. Frances said she would discuss both of these issues with Mark Polega.
- Pat Klein agreed with Gary Wager that the Woods Lake meeting with the City Manager went very well. She said that she had brought up the issue of early PRAB involvement in the annual Parks and Recreation budget. Frances assured PRAB that when she receives budget direction from the City Commission/CMO, that she will share those directives with PRAB.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Vinge, Recording Secretary

attachment