

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
June 6, 2006

Chair John Hilliard called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the Parks and Recreation Community Room in Mayors' Riverfront Park.

Roll Call:

Members Present: John Hilliard, Lance Ferraro, Gary Wager, Gina Antoniotti, Zachary Greening, Patricia Klein, Michael Dombos (5:30), and Griffin Williams (5:30)

Members Absent: None

City Commission Liaison: Barbara Miller

Staff Present: Frances Jewell and Pat Vinge

Procedural Matters: None

Introduction of Guests: None

Changes to the Agenda: Two event memos were added to Event Recommendations.

Special Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes: *The May 2, 2006 minutes were unanimously approved.*

Old Business:

Update on Parkdale Plat Parklands

Pat Klein inquired about trash being dumped in this area. Frances shared that she has contacted the Neighborhood Association and has offered to meet with them concerning this problem. She reiterated that by City Ordinance, dumping is prohibited on all City property and suggested that if residents observe someone dumping trash, that they try to get the vehicle license plate number and report the incident to Public Safety.

Woods Lake Beach/Park Update

Gary Wager shared that the Friends of Woods Lake (FOWL) would be holding a public meeting on the proposed master plan for Woods Lake Beach Park and Oakwood Memorial Park on June 7 at 7 pm at the Oakwood Neighborhood Association.

New Business

Pesticide/Herbicide Committee Vacancies

Gina Antoniotti and Zack Greening were unanimously chosen to represent PRAB on Pesticide/Herbicide Committee.

Event Recommendations

The Board unanimously recommended that the City Manager approve the following events:

- West Main Hill Neighborhood Association – Annual WMH/USTA Picnic, Henderson Park – Tuesday, August 8, 2006
- Disability Resource Center Musical Event, Bronson Park—Thursday, August 17, 2006
- “Jammin’ the Park” Concert – First United Methodist Church, Bronson Park, Saturday, August 26, 2006
- The Israel of God Bible Study Church Community Event, LaCrone Park, July 2, 2006, 1 pm-5 pm
- Johnnie Berry, Jr., Peace Jam 2006, LaCrone Park, Sunday, August 20, 2006
- Ministry with Community Summer Safety Fair, Martin Luther King, Jr., Park, Thursday, July 6, 2006

Comments:

Citizens – Non Agenda Items: None

Commission Liaison Comments: None

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Gary reported that the Friends Golf Outing would be held on Monday, July 17 at Eastern Hills Golf Course and encouraged PRAB members to volunteer at the event or sponsor a foursome. At the April 25, 2006 meeting, Friends moved to support the willingness of Friends to provide a non-specified contribution to the Junior League to assist in the Boundless Playground shortfall, with the amount to be determined at the Friends’ May meeting. As of the May meeting, the Junior League had raised \$6,000 of the needed amount. Friends unanimously agreed to contribute a maximum of \$5,000 from the July Golf Outing to the Boundless Playground, contingent upon at least \$5,000 net being raised at the Outing.

The Owens Group has been contracted by Friends to do a fund raising feasibility study and will report out on this at the Friends June 27 meeting.

Gary had shared at the last PRAB meeting that Friends unanimously agreed to devote one third (1/3) of the Kalamazoo Municipal Recreation Endowment Fund’s Spendable Income, as of December 31 of the previous year, to the Parks and Recreation budget to offset General Fund reductions, contingent upon funds being used to meet the Friends of Recreation Mission Statement. In addition, another one third (1/3) of the Spendable Income may be made available for special needs as determined by the Board. At the May meeting, the determination date for Spendable Income was amended to March 31 of that current fiscal year.

The discussion of the Friends of Recreation and the Kalamazoo Municipal Recreation Endowment Fund’s Spendable Income sparked some debate by PRAB members on who had the authority to authorize the expenditure of the Endowment’s Spendable Income. Also raised was the question of PRAB’s

relationship to the Endowment. Frances shared that in 1996, the City Commission approved the establishment of an account within the Kalamazoo Community Foundation designated as the Kalamazoo Municipal Recreation Endowment Fund. The establishment of this fund has allowed the City to focus on proactive, long-term funding strategies for municipal parks and recreation. One of the strategies for raising funds that resulted from the establishment of the Endowment was the development of the "Friends of Recreation" group which, over the last 7 years, assisted the City in fundraising. The overall goal of the "Friends of Recreation" is to build the Endowment Fund to the point that it can supplement General Fund monies to support parks and recreation in the City of Kalamazoo. The Endowment is now at that point, with over \$100,000 in Spendable Income and a total value of over \$900,000.

The Board, created by Ordinance, consists of 11 members, including the City Manager or his/her designee and the Department of Parks and Recreation Director or his/her designee as voting members, ex-officio.

Frances shared the Friends of Recreation mission statement that "The purpose of the Friends of Recreation Board is to build the Kalamazoo Municipal Recreation Endowment for the future to fund the City's recreation and leisure programs for youth, families, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and park development through fundraising."

Parks and Recreation Director – Monthly Report

Frances shared that the Safe Summer Kick-off event would be held in Mayors' Riverfront Park on June 14 from 2-8 pm. Kik Pool opens Monday, June 12 and summer playground programs start up Monday, June 19. The Youth Development Center has an awesome new sign as well as new signage on the Kik Pool bathhouse. There will be a fundraiser for the proposed Dog Park in Fairmount Park on August 12 at Mayors' Riverfront Park. The Fairmont Neighborhood Association is working closely with City staff on this project. The Boundless Playground in Upjohn Park is scheduled for a June 30 completion celebration, however, this may have to be pushed back. Frances will e-mail John when the completion date is known. The Friends of Recreation Golf Outing request to apply for a special liquor license will be on the June 19 City Commission agenda. Frances also reported that a large tree fell at Woods Lake Park and broke a picnic table. Fortunately, no one was injured and staff has removed the tree. The retaining wall construction and tennis court refurbishing at Crane Park should be completed within a month. Frances also shared that Friends of Recreation has appointed David Carrigan as the Friends liaison to PRAB.

Staff Comments: None

Board Member Comments: Lance shared that he was not in favor of the City selling Eastern Hills Golf Course. Frances reported that KMGA is implementing their Plan for the Future, which include exploring the possibility of obtaining a Class C beer license. She shared that KMGA has contributed over \$1.5 million to Parks and Recreation over the years.

Zack commented that the river looks great and that Verburg Park is also an excellent location to launch canoes. He suggested that Parks and Recreation install a "donation pipe" at Verburg as well as the Mayors' Riverfront Park canoe launch. Zack offered to get an estimate on the fabrication or purchase of the metal donation pipe. He also complimented Parks and Recreation on the great selection of programs offered in the Summer Activity Guide.

The next Board meeting falls on the 4th of July. It was decided to meet on Tuesday, July 11 at 5:00 in the Mayors' Riverfront Park community room.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Vinge, Recording Secretary