

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
December 5, 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: Gary Wager, John Hilliard, Michael Dombos, Brian Fricke, Griffin Williams, Zachary Greening, Lance Ferraro, and Gina Antoniotti

Members Absent: None

City Commission Liaison: Absent

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Absent

Staff Present: Frances Jewell and Pat Vinge

Procedural Matters: None

Introduction of Guests: None

Changes to the Agenda: Table Item G-2 (Southside Park Update) until the January meeting.

Special Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes: *The November 7, 2006 minutes were unanimously approved.*

Old Business:

Annual Report

Staff will put together a draft Annual Report based on PRAB's 2006 motions. This will be sent out with the next meeting packet.

Southside Park Update

The public input meeting held November 8 at the Edison Neighborhood Association offices was only attended by Parks and Recreation staff and John Hilliard. The group put together a number of suggestions for the park upgrade along with Recreation program staff suggestions which Mark Polega will present at the January PRAB meeting.

Status of 2007 Budget and 5-Year Plan

Frances shared that the budget presentation emphasis will be on the City's Five Year Strategic Plan, with interdepartmental linkages being highlighted in focus areas including: Economic Vitality, Neighborhood Development, Environmental Stewardship, Community Building, Responsive and Responsible Government, and Fiscal Stewardship. City Commission Work Sessions and Community Budget presentations are scheduled throughout December with budget adoption scheduled for January 2,

2007. The FY2007 Budget can be reviewed on the City's website www.kalamazoo.org.

Board Member Reappointments & Tree Committee Appointment

The Board unanimously approved recommending the reappointment to PRAB of Michael Dombos for a 3 year term, expiring January 1, 2010. The Board unanimously approved appointing Michael Dombos to the Tree Committee with Gina Antoniotti as back-up for the Tree Committee.

New Business:

Riverfront Drop Tubes

Zach Greening has been researching the possibility of donation tubes for canoe and boat launching at Mayors' Riverfront and Verburg Parks, the only areas in the City with boat/canoe launch facilities. Zach presented a drawing of the tube and estimated that materials would cost approximately \$100 per tube with Park staff fabricating the tube. Frances thanked Zach for this work and asked that he work with Tim Gleeson, Park Sports Supervisor to implement the plan. Note Zach's new e-mail address zach.greening@gmail.com

Event Recommendations

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

- One Night Without a Home, Kalamazoo Homeless Action Network, Bronson Park, Nov. 13, 2006 overnight (11/13 e-mail/phone poll: 7 members recommended approval, 1 member no response)

Brief discussion followed regarding City policy on overnight events in the parks. Frances shared that by Ordinance, overnight camping in parks is prohibited. The City Manager waived this policy for this specific event only.

Comments:

Citizens – Non Agenda Items: None

Commission Liaison Comments: None

Friends of Recreation Liaison:

Gary Wager shared that the Friends of Recreation held a year end social fundraising event at Michael Schlack's home on December 3 from 4:30-6:00. Both John and Frances attended. John said it was a good event and Frances reported that approximately \$2000 was raised (final expenses are not yet in) and Friends plans to make this an annual event. Gary shared that Kenna Bridges will be presenting an image plan to build public awareness of the Friends' mission and goals at a special Friends meeting on December 12 at 4:30 in Mayors' Riverfront Park community room.

Parks and Recreation Director – Monthly Report

Frances shared that during the phone recommendation process of "One Night without a Home," that it was suggested that the event application process be placed on the City's website. Frances spoke with the Clerk's office and they were supportive of this good suggestion. Frances said that she has offered to again meet with the Oakland Drive/Winchell Neighborhood Association to discuss their role in the Parkdale Plats.

Staff Comments: None

Board Member Comments:

Zach inquired about the Goodwill community garden property, formerly owned by the City, that was sold earlier this year. Frances said that when the garden's lease agreement ends, which is very soon, that the new owner may begin development of the property. John mentioned that in January the Board would need to elect the chair and vice-chair positions for PRAB.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Vinge, Recording Secretary