

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
April 3, 2007

Chair Wager called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm in the Parks and Recreation Community Room in Mayors' Riverfront Park.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Lance Ferraro, Brian Fricke, Gary Wager, and Zachary Greening

Members Absent: Michael Dombos, Gina Antoniotti, Griffin Williams (excused)

City Commission Liaison: Barbara Miller

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Absent

Staff Present: Frances Jewell and Pat Vinge

Introduction of Guests: Larry Ross, Winchell Neighborhood resident, Raoul Yochim, Co-President of the Oakland Drive/Winchell Neighborhood Association; Natasia Hazenberg, Nadja Biagini, Ruben Watson (WMU students)

Changes to the Agenda: None

Special Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes: *The March 6, 2007 minutes were unanimously approved.*

Old Business:

Board Applications – tabled until May.

Appreciation to John Hilliard – Chair Wager sent a letter of appreciation to John for his years of service on the PRAB Board.

Eastern Hills Golf Course Potential Sale

City Manager Ken Collard has requested an additional 30 days to consider the Administration's recommendation to the City Commission. Information from PRAB's September 6, 2005 meeting, including a motion in opposition to the sale was forwarded to current PRAB members and Commission Miller said that she had also passed this information on to the rest of the City Commission.

New Business:

EPA / Allied Paper Mill Site

All Board members were in complete and intense opposition to the dumping of the PCB materials in Kalamazoo. The Board unanimously passed the following motion: ***PRAB opposes the EPA, Millennium Holdings, and Georgia Pacific plan to dump PCB laden material at the Allied Paper Mill site in the City of Kalamazoo.***

Recommendations

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

- Family Health Center, "3rd Annual Transitional Living Health Fair," Farrell Park, Friday, June 22, 2007, 8:00 am-6:00 pm [event 11:00 am-4:00 pm]

- Kalamazoo Deacons' Conference, Round Ball Classic & Double Dutch Tournament, LaCrone Park, Thursday-Saturday, July 12-14, 2007, 10:00 am-8:00 pm [event 10:00 am-8:00 pm]
- Kalamazoo Deacons' Conference, LaCrone Park, Community Picnic, Saturday, June 16, 2007, 8:00 am-5:00 pm [event noon-3:00 pm]
- Kalamazoo Deacons' Conference, LaCrone Park, Back to School Bash, Friday, August 24, 2007, 8:00 am-5:00 pm [event noon-3:00 pm]
- Alternatives of Kalamazoo, LifeWALK 07, Bronson Park, Saturday, June 16, 2007, 7 am-noon [event 8:00-noon]
- Michigan Organizing Project, Rally for Immigrant Rights, Bronson Park, Saturday, March 17, 2007, 4:00-5:00 pm **[e-mail poll, 6 yes; 1 n/a]**

Comments:

Citizens – Non Agenda Items: Raoul Yochim, Co-President of the Oakland Drive/Winchell Neighborhood Association expressed appreciation for the efforts of PRAB and the City in stabilizing the situation with the Parkdale Plats. A Parkdale Plat clean-up project associated with Earth Day will be held on Saturday, April 21 as well as clean-up at Woods Lake Beach Park on the same day. Frances suggested that Mark Polega, Parks Manager, be contacted regarding assistance with waste pickup related to the clean-up projects.

Commission Liaison Comments: Barbara Miller shared that the Attorney's Office has prepared a "dog poop, stoop, and scoop" ordinance.

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Gary Wager shared that Friends annual Golf Outing will be held on a Friday this year, July 20, at Eastern Hills Golf Course.

Parks and Recreation Director – Monthly Report

Fairmount Park's master plan for the dog park is in the final planning stages. Frances invited PRAB members to attend the public input meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25 at 7:00 pm in Mayors' Riverfront Park community room. A detailed site plan will be available at the meeting.

Frances also said she would look into the possibility of PRAB having its own webpage within the City's website.

Frances shared that the developer who owns the apartment complex next to Knollwood Park will be rebuilding the apartments and has requested to use the south end of the open space in the park for a storm water retention cell as well as requesting that the street between the park and apartments be vacated and used for parking. The developer would be responsible for maintaining the area and the City would ask for \$100,000 in payment for the use of the parkland. City staff have approved this in concept and it will be moving forward through the City's development process, probably coming to PRAB several months from now.

Staff Comments: None

Board Member Comments: None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Vinge, Recording Secretary