

**APPROVED**  
**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**  
**June 5, 2007**

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

**Roll Call:**

**Members Present:** Lance Ferraro, Gary Wager, Michael Dombos, Gina Antoniotti, Griffin Williams, Brian Fricke, and Zachary Greening

**Members Absent:** None

**City Commission Liaison:** Barbara Miller, absent

**Friends of Recreation Liaison:** David Carrigan, absent

**Staff Present:** Frances Jewell and Pat Vinge

**Introduction of Guests:** Steve Youngblood, Aquatics and Special Populations Coordinator

**Changes to the Agenda:** Property at 1310 Hays Parks added to New Business

**Special Presentations:**

**Parks and Recreation staff presentation to provide PRAB with a better understanding of what Parks and Recreation staff do in the community.**

Steve Youngblood, Aquatics and Special Populations Coordinator, gave an overview of the Parks and Recreation aquatic, senior, and inclusive programs which he coordinates.

**Approval of Minutes:** *The May 1, 2007 minutes were unanimously approved.*

**Old Business:**

**Board Applications**

Chair Wager reported that Larry Ross will be at the July meeting and Holly Ringle has declined to serve because of time constraints. The Board will continue to look for members.

**Update on Mini-Camps/Playgrounds**

Frances reported that the City Commission approved an increase of \$13,277 to the Parks and Recreation seasonal staff budget to fund the addition of 10 openings at each of the 9 Mini-Camp sites.

**New Business:**

**Combined Fundraising Efforts for LaCrone, Fairmount, and Woods Lake Parks**

Frances shared that all 3 parks now have master plans. A public meeting will be held to review the plans prior to requesting that the City Commission incorporate the plans into the Parks and Recreation 5 Year Master Plan. This will make the master plans eligible for state and federal funds. In order to be comprehensive in reaching local foundations, LaCrone, Fairmount, and Woods Lake Parks fundraising committees will put together a package request to the local foundations.

**Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)**

Frances reported that this grant funded program is a partnership among the Parks and Recreation and Public Services Departments, K/RESA, Kalamazoo Public Schools, the Hispanic American Council, and the Neighborhood Associations. It is administered by

Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU), a division of Kalamazoo Regional Education Services Agency (K/RESA). Eligible youth must be between 12 and 17 years of age and live in the City of Kalamazoo or the Kalamazoo Public School District. Youth will work with neighborhood associations and City crews. Duties will include basic tasks that relate to public service, Counselors in Training, skill workshops and educational enhancement opportunities. Lunch is included in the program which will employ 190 youth and 26 crew leaders, 21 years or age or older. Youth will be paid \$7.15 per hour and crew leaders \$10.00. There are 62 youth on a waiting list for the SYEP.

### **Property at 1310 Hays Park**

Frances stated that in 2005, based on the 2003 Park Property Assessment, PRAB recommended that this property be sold with the proceeds designated for the Municipal Recreation Endowment Fund. The property has not yet been sold and Frances has received a request from the Edison Neighborhood Association to use the property for a tot lot. Edison owns an adjacent piece of property. Frances proposed that the property be given by quit claim deed to Edison with a reverter clause requiring that it revert to the City if it was no longer being used for its intended purpose. PRAB unanimously approved the following motion: ***PRAB recommends that the property at 1310 Hays Park be given to the Edison Neighborhood Association by quit claim deed and that a reverter clause be included in the contract.***

### **Recommendations**

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

- Peaceful Gathering, Pastor Joseph Anderson, Bronson Park, June 9, 2007, 11:30 am-3:00 pm
- Haven Reformed Church, Concert, Bronson Park, Thursday, July 12, 2007, 8:00 am-10:00 pm [event 8:30 pm – 10:00 pm]

***The Board recommended that the City Manager approve the following event, with Michael Dombos abstaining due to his connection with the Alzheimer's Association:***

- Alzheimer's Association, Memory Walk, Bronson Park, Saturday, September 15, 2007, 9:00 am-11:00am

### **Comments:**

**Citizens – Non Agenda Items:** None

**Commission Liaison Comments:** None

**Friends of Recreation Liaison:** Gary Wager shared that Kenna Bridges, public relations consultant hired by Friends, synthesized a number of Friends promotional ideas. The first event coming up is a Friends of Recreation Promotional Night with the Kings Baseball on June 30.

### **Parks and Recreation Director – Monthly Report**

Frances shared that Bill Wright of the Kings is sponsoring 4 Neighborhood Block Parties with free food and music from 4:00-8:00 pm on Sundays: June 10, Rockwell Park; June 17, Boys and Girls Club; June 24, LaCrone Park; and July 1, YMCA parking lot. There will be a final celebration at the July 22 Kalamazoo Kings Game, free to all neighborhoods. These are all designated "Safe Summer" events.

The June 23, Gospel Mission event in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park has been cancelled by the event organizer.

A public hearing seeking input on incorporating the Fairmount Dog Park, LaCrone, and Woods Lake Parks master plans into the 2003 Parks and Recreation Master Plan will take place at the next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting beginning at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, July 10, 2007 in the MRP Community Room.

Frances congratulated Brian Fricke on his participation in the winning Kalamazoo Central Mock Trial Competition held in Dallas, Texas. Michael Dombos added his accolades to Brian's accomplishment. Frances also commended Griffin Williams on his work with Special Olympics and the Kayak and Canoe Club which will be assisting in cleaning up the Kalamazoo River on June 9 from 3-5 pm.

**Staff Comments:** None

**Board Member Comments:** None

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Vinge, Recording Secretary