

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
November 6, 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: Gary Wager, Michael Dombos, Brian Fricke and Griffin Williams

Members Absent: Lance Ferraro, Gina Antoniotti, and Zachary Greening

City Commission Liaison: Barbara Miller, absent

Friends of Recreation Liaison: David Carrigan

Staff Present: Frances Jewell and Pat Vinge

Introduction of Guests: Bob Cook of the Sunrise Rotary

Changes to the Agenda: None

Special Presentations:

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

Mark Polega, Parks Manager, discussed the Parks component of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Approval of Minutes: *The October 2, 2007 minutes were unanimously approved.*

Old Business:

Board Application – Larry Ross

Recommendation to City Commission will be on the November 19, 2007 City Commission agenda.

Update on Downtown to Kal Haven Trail

Dick Skalski, retired City Engineer, presented an update on the Kalamazoo River Trailway . The design is complete for the bridge over Portage Creek at Rose Park Veterans' Memorial. This will provide a pedestrian connection from the Red Arrow Golf Course portion of the trailway to Rose Park Veterans' Memorial, connecting the trail to Harrison St. and the Jack Coombs Trailway. Approval is expected from Lansing by year-end with completion of this segment by mid-summer.

It is expected that the City's connection to Kal Haven Trail will be completed by mid-July 2008. Funding is still being sought for the portion of the Portage Creek Trail from Kilgore north to Cork and on to Upjohn Park to Gibson connecting to Mayors' Riverfront Park. Dick explained that the trailway may go around the Performance Paper site as opposed to through it until that property can be properly cleaned up.

Status of Marketing Park Properties Recommended for Disposal

Frances shared that a comprehensive report on park properties was completed in 2005 and at this time, PRAB made recommendations on the disposal/retention of these properties. Funds from any property sales were recommended to be put into the Kalamazoo Municipal Recreation Endowment Fund. PRAB was given a report on the status of properties that had

been either sold, combined with other parcels, or leases terminated or approved. At this point, no property is being actively marketed. Michael Dombos expressed concern that a property on Grant Street was recommended for disposal and he indicated that he believed this should be left as green space in the neighborhood.

New Business:

AIA RFP grant Application for Design Process at Allied Site

This grant application is not being pursued; Community Planning and Development has set aside funds for this planning process and CP&D recommended that this grant not be sought.

Recommendations for Approval:

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

- September 11th Commemorative Event, Bronson Park, September 11, 2008, 5:00-9:00 pm
- First Assembly of God—Dream Center Community Festival, Bronson Park, Friday and Saturday, August 1 and 2, 2008
- Kalamazoo Institute of Arts – Art Fair, Bronson Park, June 6 and 7, 2008

Comments:

Citizens – Non Agenda Items: None

Commission Liaison Comments: None

Friends of Recreation Liaison: David Carrigan shared that Friends of Recreation was holding their 2nd Annual Holiday Gathering after the free WMU School of Music Holiday Concert on December 2. A \$25 contribution is requested and all PRAB members are invited.

Parks and Recreation Director – Monthly Report

Included in the agenda packet was information on the 2008 Parks and Recreation CIP proposal and FY2008 Proposed budget. Currently there are 7 new CIP projects proposed for funding in 2008. Frances highlighted the work that would be done in Frays Park which will involve removing old playground equipment and installing new equipment. Also at Kik Pool new fencing will be installed around the pool facility and the entrance will be modified. The style of fencing will tie into the decorative fencing that will be used in the Upjohn Park renovation project. Frances shared that staff are excited about the new CIP projects for 2008. The proposed FY2008 Parks and Recreation budget is basically a status quo budget.

Mark Polega, Parks Manager, received approval from the Pesticide/Herbicide Committee to use a broadleaf herbicide treatment in Bronson Park.

Staff Comments: None

Board Member Comments: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Vinge, Recording Secretary