

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
December 4, 2007

Vice-Chair Ferraro 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, Michael Dombos, Larry Ross, and Griffin Williams

Members Absent: Gary Wager, Gina Antoniotti, Brian Fricke and Zachary Greening

City Commission Liaison: Barbara Miller, present

Friends of Recreation Liaison: absent

Staff Present: Frances Jewell and Pat Vinge

Introduction of Guests: None

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.

Leslie Neuman, Youth Program Assistant, discussed the youth program component of the Parks and Recreation programs which she oversees and in which she works directly.

Approval of Minutes: There was no a quorum, however due to a number of agenda items requiring timely action, ***the November 6, 2007 minutes were unanimously approved by those present and by an e-mail poll of those absent from meeting.*** [Correction made after approval: minutes changed to reflect the approval of October 2, 2007 minutes rather than September 4, 2007 minutes as referenced in November 6, 2007 minutes.]

Old Business:

Board Application – Larry Ross

City Commission approved the appointment of Larry Ross to the PRAB Board at the November 19, 2007 City Commission meeting.

Milham/Blanche Hull Master Plan

Staff requested that the Board consider a motion in support of this project and due to a lack of quorum, it was tabled until the January meeting.

Condominiums adjacent to Crane Park

Frances shared that Betsy Ann/Summit Street is a public street going through Crane Park and it would remain open. Staff plan to close the north end of Crane Avenue off to prevent traffic in this part of the park. Michael Dombos expressed concern about the impact of this kind of development so close to Crane Park and said that he is personally opposed to the project. Michael also provided architect renditions of the condominiums as well as photos from the Brad Roche Development Group's website. There was discussion if PRAB might write a letter in opposition to the project. Frances stated that the Board was certainly free to do this, however, as long as the development stays within City zoning and building guidelines, there is very little the Board can do. The matter was tabled until the January meeting.

New Business:

925 Grant Street

Frances shared background on this property: in 2004, the Parks and Recreation Department conducted a survey of parkland which identified some areas which could possibly be sold. 925 Grant Street was one of the properties identified for possible sale. In 2005, PRAB supported the potential sale of 925 Grant along with several other parcels. At the November 6, 2007 PRAB meeting, Frances provided the Board with an update report on the status of the properties. Michael Dombos emphasized his strong opposition to the sale of 925 Grant, indicating that it was a beautiful green space and that maintaining spaces like this in the community adds to the quality of life for residents and is looked at when people consider moving to the Kalamazoo area. He requested that PRAB revisit their vote on this property at their January meeting. Item tabled for the January meeting.

Parks and Recreation 2008 Proposed Fees & Charges

Frances shared that there was a small increase in some fees but that nothing had substantially changed from 2007 fees and charges. ***The Parks and Recreation 2008 Proposed Fees & Charges were unanimously recommended for approval, by the City Commission, by those present and by an e-mail poll of those absent from meeting.***

2007 Annual Report

The 2007 Annual Report was unanimously approved by those present and by an e-mail poll of those absent from meeting.

Gary Wager – Reappointment Recommendation

Frances said that Gary was interested in serving another term on the Board. ***The Board unanimously recommended the reappointment of Gary Wager to PRAB for a 3 year term expiring on January 1, 2011 by those present and by an e-mail poll of those absent from meeting.***

2008 Meeting Schedule

The Board unanimously recommended the following 2008 PRAB Meeting Schedule by those present and by an e-mail poll of those absent from meeting.

*January 8
February 5
March 4
April 1
May 6
June 3*

*July 1
August 6 [Wednesday]
September 2
October 7
November 5 [Wednesday]
December 2*

Event Recommendations for Approval: None to approve

Comments:

Citizens – Non Agenda Items: None

Commission Liaison Comments: None

Friends of Recreation Liaison: None

Parks and Recreation Managing Director – Monthly Report: No additional information

Staff Comments: None

Board Member Comments: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Vinge, Recording Secretary