

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
February 5, 2008

Chair Wager called the meeting to order at 5:12 pm in the Parks and Recreation Community Room in Mayors' Riverfront Park.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Lance Ferraro, Larry Ross, Gary Wager, Zachary Greening, and Michael Dombos

Members Absent: Gina Antoniotti, Brian Fricke, and Griffin Williams

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: Event Recommendation addition [Bronson Health Alliance]

Special Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes: *The January 8, 2008 minutes were unanimously approved.*

Old Business:

Designated Park Process

Frances Jewell shared the following information concerning a "designated" park.

- The City Commission is the only body that can **dedicate** City property as a park.
- The City's Comprehensive Plan **designates** public parks within the City as part of their land use plan.

Regarding the sale of City parks, there are statutory restrictions in the Home Rule Cities Act on the City's ability to sell a park. For the City to have the authority to sell a park, there is a two-step inquiry: first, is the park **dedicated** by the City Commission, and second, if so, is it **designated** as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan. If the answer to both questions is yes, then a majority vote of the people is required before it can be sold. If the answer to either question is no, then it can be sold without a vote.

Designated/Dedicated Parks can only be sold if:

1. The park is removed from the Comprehensive Plan, which requires a 2/3 vote of the Planning Commission and a majority approval by the City Commission, or,
2. If the park is still in the Comprehensive Plan, the sale must be approved in a special election by a majority of the voters.

Zach brought up the 925 Grant Street property which PRAB recommended by removed from the City's "surplus property" list at their January 8, 2008 meeting. He indicated that the Vine Neighborhood Association is interested in providing some stewardship for the property, especially aimed at trash removal.

Board Application / Garrylee McCormick

After brief discussion, the Board unanimously recommended appointment of Mr. McCormick to PRAB. Garrylee asked whether PRAB was still on the Property Review Board.

Frances responded that she thought PRAB was no longer a member, but that she would follow up on this.

New Business: None

Event Recommendations for Approval:

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

- Kalamazoo Pagan Pride Day, Milham Park, September 14, 2008 from 9 am to 6:00 pm
- Alzheimer's Association – Memory Walk , Bronson Park – Saturday, September 13, 2008, 9:00 am-noon
- Specialized Language Development (SLD) Learning Center, Spring Valley Park – May 10, 2008 from 8:00 am-noon
- 2008 Kalamazoo Valley CROP Walk, Bronson Park, Sunday, May 4, 2008, 1:00-4:30pm
- Borgess Health Alliance – Borgess Run for the Health of It, Spring Valley Park, April 26, 2008 from 8 am to 11 am

Comments:

Citizens – Non Agenda Items: None

Commission Liaison Comments: None

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Gary Wager shared that Friends will be working on goals for 2008, the park history book project, and the annual Golf Outing.

Parks and Recreation Managing Director – Monthly Report:

Frances shared the following information regarding CIP projects:

- The 3-park project committee (LaCrone, Fairmount, and Woods Lake Parks) will meet with the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.
- New outdoor restrooms at MRP are in the design phase. These are being funded by the Mayors' Riverfront Park Endowment.
- Demolition of the bridge at Spring Valley Park will occur this spring with new bridge projected to be installed in July.
- Spring Valley road will be repaved this summer.
- The entrance to Kik Pool will receive a face lift and new awnings will be installed for the pool area.
- The Upjohn Park Project will be completed by the end of July.
- The fountain at Bronson Park will be connected to the sanitary sewer due to chemicals which are used in cleaning the fountain; currently excess water flows into the storm water system.

Frances also shared that she will be speaking February 11, 2008 at the Downtown Rotary on Parks and Recreation projects.

Staff Comments: None

Board Member Comments: Zach said that S. Westnedge Park had open electrical plugs that were used to illuminate holiday decorations that were not installed by the City. Frances will check on this.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Vinge, Recording Secretary