

**APPROVED**  
**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**  
**September 2, 2008**

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, Garrylee McCormick, Michael Dombos, and Griffin Williams

**Members Absent:** Brian Fricke, Gina Antoniotti, and Larry Ross

**City Commission Liaison:** Barbara Miller

**Friends of Recreation Liaison:** absent

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

**Introduction of Guests:** Jerome Kisscorni, Executive Director of Economic Development Corporation (Community Planning and Development Department)

**Changes to the Agenda:** None

**Special Presentations:**

**Property Review Committee function and process by J. Kisscorni**

Jerome shared that the Property Review Committee reviews City owned property with the exception of Brownfields and Community Development owned properties. It has an administrative function, confirming that all City policies and procedures are followed when City property comes up for sale. Historically they meet on an as needed basis, only meeting 1 or 2 times a year in the past 2 years. Parks and Recreation staff are welcome to attend the meetings, however recommendation is sought from the Parks and Recreation Director if any park property is involved. Frances shared that any recommendation that she might make to the administration would also include the PRAB recommendation. Michael Dombos expressed concern about greenspace that may not be Park property that might be sold without the notification of the Parks and Recreation Director. Jerome shared that there are over 400 properties that are owned by the City and each department that "holds" the property would be involved in the recommendation for sale. The list of properties is available on disk by property description so some work would be required to make the list more user accessible. Jerome offered to provide this electronic list to PRAB if requested.

**Approval of Minutes:** *The July 1 and August 6, 2008 minutes were unanimously approved.*

**Old Business:**

**Board Member Recruitment** – Griffin Williams had 3 potential youth members; this will be Griffin's last meeting with PRAB prior to leaving for college.

**New Business:**

**Consideration of PRAB Board member applications** – The Board received 3 applications from the Clerk's Office; 2 of which wish to serve on any board and one which specified PRAB. Gary Wager had attempted unsuccessfully to contact Natalie Patchell, who had specified PRAB. Garrylee knows Ms. Patchell offered to call her and invite her to the next Board meeting.

**Event Recommendations for Approval:**

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

- Michigan Organizing Project, Rally for Immigrant Rights, Bronson Park, Sunday, September 28, 2008, 4:30-8:30 pm (event starts at 6:00 pm)

**The following events were recommended for approved 8/7/08 by e-mail/phone poll – 6 yes 2 N/A:**

- Annual John Daley Memorial One/One Run, Spring Valley Park - January 1, 2009 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- Islamic Relief, "Humanitarian Day for the Homeless," Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, Saturday, September 13, 2008, all day, [event 7 am-5 pm
- "National Gasoline Rally" – Free Gas USA, Inc., Bronson Park, August 30, 2008, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm [this event has been postponed]
- The River Church Service and Social Gathering, Reed Park, Sunday, August 24, 2008, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Comments:**

**Citizens – Non Agenda Items:** None

**Commission Liaison:** Barb thanked Griffin for his work on PRAB; other Board members also offered their thanks.

**Friends of Recreation Liaison:** On behalf of David Carrigan, Friends Liaison to PRAB, Garrylee shared that so far 38 Parks History books had been sold; the Friends of Recreation deck party was a lot of fun and a success; and the Golf Outing was also a successful event.

**Parks and Recreation Managing Director – Monthly Report :**

- Frances shared the meeting dates for the public meetings to gain input on the 5 Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan as well as master plans for Crane and Farrell Parks. A Parks and Recreation survey that is being distributed to the public as part of the 5 Year Plan was shared with PRAB.
- The streambank stabilization project has begun in Milham Park; the parking lot on Lovers Lane / Kilgore Rd. is closed and is being used as a staging area for equipment.
- On the 9/2/08 City Commission agenda is the request to accept a \$2,500 grant to prepare a cost estimate for the restoration of the lanelli Fountain in Bronson Park.
- Spring Valley Park is closed September 2 and 3 while the road is resurfaced.
- Restrooms in all parks are closed beginning the day after Labor Day.
- Frances shared that the Grand Opening of Upjohn Park will be September 19 from 2-4 pm.
- Frances distributed the Parks and Recreation portion of the City Manager's Monthly Report.
- Pat Vinge, Accounts Coordinator/Secretary for Parks and Recreation will be retiring from the City in October with a reception planned for Thursday, October 16 from 3-5 pm.

Frances also asked that the Board consider if a different meeting time would make fulfilling the quorum more successful. This will be discussed at the October meeting.

**Staff:** None

**Board Members:**

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Vinge, Recording Secretary

attachments:  
Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Why the 5 Year Plan  
Parks and Recreation Survey

### **Parks and Recreation Plan Project: Why the 5 year Plan?**

- DNR and Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR) – requirement for grant applications
- Prioritize redevelopment and recreation programming
- Grant availability/funding eligibility
- Address ADA issues/compliance
- Address maintenance issue
- Address environmental issues

### **Key City Goals:**

- Redevelopment of Fairmount, LaCrone and Woods Lake Beach Parks
- Continue to build the Citywide trail system –multi-jurisdictional cooperation
- Continued maintenance and improvements to existing parks
- Insure quality recreation programs for residents of all ages
- Park improvement Citywide – all areas of the City
- Create inventory of parks and park mapping/plans
- Possible expansion of Youth Development Center
- Possible expansion of the Kalamazoo Farmers Market
- Master Plans for Crane and Farrell Parks
- Explore Regional Park Authority
- Explore Dedicated Millage
- Universal access as a design goal
- Green development/improvements
- Consideration to swap certain areas of Verburg Park outside the floodplain for other land for park like development or natural areas

### **Key Accomplishments since the Last Master Plan:**

- Boundless Playground
- Upjohn Park
- Southside Park
- Spring Valley Bridge and Road reconstruction
- Frays Park new playground
- Bronson Park sanitary sewer connection
- Crane Park Improvements (retaining wall and tennis courts)
- Barrier Free Drinking Fountains at Crane, Bronson, and Farmers Market
- Mayors' Riverfront Park – ADA bleacher modifications and new entrance marquee
- ADA improvements to playground surfaces at Mayors' Riverfront Park and VerSluis/Dickinson
- Trailway system continued S. Westledge to Kal Haven Trail
- Master Plans for Fairmount Dog Park, LaCrone, and Woods Lake Parks completed
- Milham Park Bank Stabilization
- Milham Park Maintenance Building

- Kik Pool building and fencing improvements
- VerSluis/Dickinson Improvements funded by Kalamazoo Amateur Athletic Federation
- Spring Valley Park Natural Features Project
- Hundreds of volunteer hours as part of Kalamazoo in Bloom and Michigan State University Master Gardener program for community beautification projects (Bronson Park, City Hall, Downtown etc...)
- Farmers Market 60 year celebration event
- Summer Youth Employment Program
- Street Academy
- Received over \$1,630,000 in donations and grants for programs, services and park development projects.
- Development of Middle School Entrepreneurial Programs – Future Chefs, Counselors in Training, baby sitting
- Partnered with Kalamazoo Middle Schools to provide the after school Soccer, Flag Football, Archery and Golf Leagues.
- Development of the Milwood Elementary Safer Swim in the Water Program now being expanded to all KPS 3<sup>rd</sup> graders
- Partnership with the Turn 2 Foundations for the creation of a baseball clinic
- Kalamazoo Municipal Recreation Endowment – over 1.2 million
- New 15 passenger van (\$24,000 half paid for by the Friends of Recreation)
- Established the Mayors Riverfront Park Endowment with 1.1 million
- Park Master Plans completed: LaCrone Park, Woods Lake Park, and Fairmount.
- Key partnerships - Friends of Woods Lake and Milham/Blanche Hull Parks
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# CITY OF KALAMAZOO PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY

The City of Kalamazoo is currently updating its five year Parks and Recreation Plan. Part of this planning process involves a survey to receive input from the City's residents. We would appreciate a few minutes of your time to fill out this survey. Your input on future parks and recreation opportunities is very important. Please return survey by October 10, 2008 to the Parks and Recreation Department at Mayors' Riverfront Park (see other side for address and mailing).

## RECREATION FACILITIES

### 1. Which of the City's park facilities have you or your family visited in the last year?

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blanche Hull Park  | <input type="checkbox"/> Knollwood Park                | <input type="checkbox"/> Upjohn Park              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronson Park       | <input type="checkbox"/> LaCrone Park                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Versluis/Dickinson Park  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crane Park         | <input type="checkbox"/> Mayors' Riverfront Park       | <input type="checkbox"/> Verburg Park             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emerald Drive Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Milham Park                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Woods Lake Beach Park    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farmers' Market    | <input type="checkbox"/> Rockwell Park                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Development Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farrell Park       | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Valley Park            |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frays Park         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other neighborhood park _____ |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kik Pool           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other open green space _____  |   |

### 2. Which of the City's park facilities would you most like to see improved/updated?

Please check up to five (5) facilities.

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blanche Hull Park  | <input type="checkbox"/> Frays Park                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Valley Park       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronson Park       | <input type="checkbox"/> Kik Pool                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Versluis/Dickinson Park  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crane Park         | <input type="checkbox"/> Knollwood Park                | <input type="checkbox"/> Verburg Park             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emerald Drive Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Milham Park                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Development Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farmers' Market    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other neighborhood park _____ |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farrell Park       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other open green space _____  |   |

Please explain suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

Master plans have already been completed for Fairmount, LaCrone, Rockwell and Woods Lake Beach Parks

### 3. Which of the following activities/ facilities would you like to see expanded or upgraded in the City?

Please check up to five (5) facilities.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball/softball fields          | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-motorized trails         | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice skating/hockey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer fields                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-country skiing         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sledding           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball courts                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural area/open space      | <input type="checkbox"/> Splash park        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis courts (outdoor)           | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic facilities            | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Football fields                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe/ kayaking              | <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboard park    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sand volleyball                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Park           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Disc golf                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor recreation  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kick ball/dodge ball/whiffle ball | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |   |

Please explain suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

## RECREATION PROGRAMMING

### 4. Have you or your family participated in recreation programming offered by the City of Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Department?

- |              |                              |                             |               |                              |                             |
|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Youth        | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | Adult         | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Family Event | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | Special Event | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Please explain programs \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. If you answered "No" to question 4 above, please indicate your reason for non-participation.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not interested in activities offered     | <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough time for participation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use alternative recreational programming | <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are too costly               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registration for programs is difficult   | <input type="checkbox"/> Location is not convenient        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Time of program is inconvenient          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____      |

6. Are there other activities/ facilities you would like to see offered by the City?

Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**PARK MAINTENANCE**

7. How would you rate the maintenance of City of Kalamazoo Parks you have visited in the last year?

- Excellent       Good       Fair       Poor

8. The Parks and Recreation Department is considering ways to implement sustainable/ green initiatives in City Parks. How important do you consider this issue?

- Very Important     Important       Not important

9. Please indicate which green initiatives you think would be most effective in achieving this goal

- Reduce mown/ irrigated lawn areas       Promote non-motorized transportation to parks
- Increase native tree and shrub planting       Use of recycled products and materials
- Increase wildflower areas       Increase use of porous paved surfaces
- Energy saving techniques (solar power, LED lights, timers etc.)
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**WISH LIST**

10. If you were in charge of Parks and Recreation in the City of Kalamazoo, what would you add or change?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Polega, Parks Manager, or Frances Jewell, Parks and Recreation Managing Director, at 269-337-8191. As part of the Park and Recreation planning process, Public Meetings will be held to solicit comments; these meetings will be on Wednesday September 24 and Wednesday October 22 from 6-8 p.m. at the Park and Recreation Department, Mayors' Riverfront Park. Surveys may also be returned at the meeting.

**FOLD COMPLETED SURVEY SO RETURN ADDRESS IS VISIBLE AND STAPLE OR TAPE**

<b>AFFIX POSTAGE</b>
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**Park and Recreation Survey  
 Mayors' Riverfront Park  
 251 Mills Street  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49048-2434**