

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
April 7, 2009

Chair Wager called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm in the Parks and Recreation Community Room in Mayors' Riverfront Park.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Gary Wager, Garrylee McCormick, Michael Dombos, Larry Ross, and Natalie Patchell.

Members Absent: none

City Commission Liaison: absent

Friends of Recreation Liaison: absent

Staff Present: Frances Jewell and Lisa Brown

Introduction of Guests: Joey Thrash, KVCC Student

Changes to the Agenda: Two additional event recommendations were presented. Also, noted time change for previously recommended event for Wenke 9/11 Commemoration (time was originally 10:00 am to 2:00pm, but changed to 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm).

Special Presentations: Travis Bell from Kalamazoo Trail Movement talked about things their group has accomplished in the area. These items included two mile of trails south of Paw Paw High School, clean up of trails behind Oshtemo Township offices on M-43, and clean up at Al Sabo. Their group would like to be considered for trail projects in the Kalamazoo parks and didn't want exclusive rights, just access. Travis indicated the group is affiliated with the Michigan Mountain Bikes Association, but is interested in more activities than just biking. He told the board they could get additional information at the group's website, which is www.kalamazootrailsmovement.org

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the March 3, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Board Member Recruitment – Steve Chevrenak had been included on the agenda packet e-mail that was sent out, but was not present at the meeting. There has been no news from the school contacts that Natalie made.

New Business: none

Event Recommendations for Approval:

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

- 4th Annual Out of the Darkness Community Walk @ Bronson Park – September 12, 2009 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Fraternal Order of Police Memorial Service @ Bronson Park – June 12, 2009 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
- Kalamazoo Pride Dog Show @ Bronson Park – May 9, 2009 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

- Caesar Chavez March @ Bronson Park – March 31, 2009 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm [*approved by e-mail –3 yes, 2 N/A*]
- Galilee Baptist Family Vacation Bible School @ LaCrone Park – July 23, 2009 from 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm
- Alzheimer’s Association Memory Walk @ Bronson Park – September 29, 2009 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am

Comments:

Citizens – Non Agenda Items: None

Commission Liaison: Absent

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Absent

Parks and Recreation Managing Director – Monthly Report:

Frances shared the following information:

- Summer Brochures have been mailed and City registration begins 4/13/09 and non-City registration begins 4/20/09.
- Master plan was approved at Commission meeting on 4/6/09.
- The 125th Anniversary Celebration will be held at City Hall on 4/14/09 @ 5:00 pm
- A Volunteer Appreciation Reception will be held at City Hall on 4/20/09 @ 6:15 pm
- Updates on CIP projects include repair work on the Homer Stryker Baseball field, award of the Spring Valley Bride/Fishing Dock project, Frays Park playground to be in mid-June, and development of construction documents for the Fairmount Dog Park.

Staff: None

Board Members: Garrylee indicated that he would like to be informed about the outcome of the evaluation of the trees at Bronson Park (specifically which ones need to come down), so he can be prepared to answer questions that come in.

Natalie said that she had walked through Crane Park and noticed several trees that have fallen. She wondered about coordinating a clean up with neighborhoods & City staff. Frances indicated that she didn’t want volunteers doing the large tree chipping, due to safety concerns. She will relay the information to Mark Polega, Parks Manager. Frances also said that this is part of the total spring clean up process in parks normally. She also reminded the board if anyone sees evidence of homeless people living in the parks, they should call Public Safety.

It was mentioned that Earth Day clean up at Woods Lake Park is scheduled on 4/18/09.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Brown, Recording Secretary