

**APPROVED**  
**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**  
**May 5, 2009**

Vice Chair McCormick called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm in the Parks and Recreation Community Room in Mayors' Riverfront Park.

**Roll Call:**

**Members Present:** Garrylee McCormick, Natalie Patchell, Larry Ross, and Michael Dombos (Dombos arrived at 5:35 pm)

**Members Absent:** Gary Wager

**City Commission Liaison:** Barbara Miller

**Friends of Recreation Liaison:** David Carrigan absent

**Staff Present:** Frances Jewell, Barbara Blissett, Mark Polega, and Brian Bailey

**Introduction of Guests:** Bill Steinman, Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC)

**Changes to the Agenda:** None

**Special Presentations:** Mark Polega introduced Brian Bailey as the new Parks Supervisor. Mark said Brian was a WMU graduate with a major in Parks and Recreation and a minor in sociology. He said Brian would make a good fit with the department and allow him to tackle projects more in line with his own position such as park planning.

Brian briefly commented that working at Parks and the opportunity to work at something he really enjoyed having been raised in Kansas on a farm, ultimately loving working outdoors.

Garrylee inquired why Larry Harris, a landscape architect, was hired to work on the landscape project for City Hall's 125 Year Celebration.

Frances responded that Larry was hired by the City Manager's Office

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the April 7, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Old Business:**

**Board Member Recruitment** – Two youth vacancies remain open on the board. Bill Steinman said his daughter might be interested in serving in that capacity and he would discuss it with her. Staff informed Bill that applications were available on the City's web-site.

**New Business:**

Commissioner Miller presented two e-mails from concerned citizens:

- Regarding the Parks & Recreation Summer Programs and the lack of more available spots for participants. Discussion took place regarding each of the concerns and members questioned whether the size of the summer program classes could be increased possibly by charging more per student thereby increasing revenue

Frances responded that the summer programs had decreased in class size due to the State licensing requirement which dropped the size limit from 15 to 1 to 10 to 1 for staff to participant. She said that all fees/charges go into the City's General Fund and an increase in program cost does not increase the department's ability to increase programs/services; and

- Foul language being used at the softball fields within hearing distance of small children.

Frances said she would meet with staff to address the citizen's concern and report back to the Board.

**Event Recommendations for Approval:**

***Natalie Patchell, seconded by Larry Ross moved to recommended the City Manager approve the following events. With a voice vote the motion carried unanimously.***

- Kalamazoo Pride Dog Show at Milham Park, May 9, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Event was approved at the April meeting based on the original request to use Bronson Park. Change of venue was approved by e-mail poll – 4 yes, 1 n/a)
- Salvation Army Concert at Bronson Park, May 13, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Approved by e-mail – 4 yes, 1 n/a)
- Kalamazoo Public Library 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Party in the Park at Bronson Park, May 27, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Annual West Main Hill Association/USTA Picnic at Henderson Park, August 11, 2009 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- Annual Gazelle Sports Metro Trek at Milham Park, September 26, 2009 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Comments: - None**

**Citizens – Non Agenda Items:** None

**Commission Liaison:** None

**Friends of Recreation Liaison:** Absent

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

Frances shared the following information:

- Application was submitted for the Dalton Grant to assist with improvements at Woods Lake and LaCrone Parks
- The tulip pull was scheduled for May 7th
- Parks Master Plan was submitted to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for approval. Once approved, the DNR will notify the City.
- There was discussion on the challenges of receiving late requests for special events and importance of timely responses from Board members on e-mails. Frances asked the Board for their assistance in facilitating these requests.

**Staff:** None

**Board Members:**

Larry Ross commented on Farmer's Market and the Green Movement, requesting the addition of more vendors and to provide better parking.

Bill Steinman inquired whether there was a city policy on deer in parks and the increased number roaming within city limits. Discussion continued with remarks stating the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would be the official contact for learning about the State's regulations and requirements for the recent over-population.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Blissett, Recording Secretary