

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
June 2, 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: Gary Wager, Garrylee McCormick, Larry Ross, and Michael Dombos (Dombos arrived at 5:35 pm)

Members Absent: Natalie Patchell

City Commission Liaison: Barbara Miller

Friends of Recreation Liaison: David Carrigan absent

Staff Present: Frances Jewell and Lisa Brown

Introduction of Guests: Frank Szopo, City Engineer

Changes to the Agenda: Two event recommendations were added to the agenda (see items C & D in Event Recommendations)

Special Presentations: Frank Szopo discussed the improvement project at Spring Valley Dam. There are additional funds remaining from this project and he asked the Board for a recommendation to utilize those funds to hire a consultant to perform an evaluation of Williams Pond (also known as Deeks Pond). The evaluation will include the environmental impact, as well as costs and recommendations to repair the dam to make it safe. Once the report from the evaluation is received, it will be presented to the community and PRAB for input prior to proceeding further. The Board unanimously supported the request for the City to hire a consultant to perform the evaluation.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the May 5, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Board Member Recruitment – Gary has tried to get in touch with prior applicant Chevrenak, but home phone is disconnected and he hasn't been able to get in touch with him at work. Gary also suggested posting the vacancies on Facebook/Twitter, and he will look into that.

New Business:

2009 Friends of Recreation Golf Classic Fund Raiser – Frances reminded the Board that the outing will take place on July 17th and that we are looking for donated gifts, hole sponsors and golfers. The proceeds from the event will help fund the salary expense of staff at the Youth Development Center.

Event Recommendations for Approval:

The following events were unanimously recommended for approval:

- Northside Association for Community Development National Night Out at Farrell Park, August 4, 2009 from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm
- Korean War Veterans Memorial Service at Bronson Park, July 27, 2009 from 11:00 am to 11:30 am
- Southwest Michigan TEA Party at Bronson Park, July 4, 2009 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

The following event was not recommended for approval:

- Sky Productions Funk and Soul Fest at South Westnedge (Pioneer) Park, June 19, 2009 from 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm and June 20, 2009 from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm **(2 members voted for approval, 2 members abstained from voting)**

Comments: - None

Citizens – Non Agenda Items: None

Commission Liaison: None

Friends of Recreation Liaison: David Carrigan was absent. Garrylee informed the Board that Zandie Jackson had been recommended for appointment to the Friends board.

Parks and Recreation Managing Director – Monthly Report:

Frances shared the following information:

- Blanche Hull/Milham Park Master Plan project will be going out for RFP based on current funds secured for this purpose
- Summer youth seeking employment must be income eligible due to Federal funding
- Frays Park new playground equipment should be installed by mid-June
- Final plans for the Spring Valley Park Bridge project are being reviewed and then fabrication of the bridge will begin
- Kik Pool improvements are almost complete. The pool opens on June 15th
- Upjohn Park improvements are in the final stages of completion and there could possibly be a Grand Opening Celebration in July
- The HVAC project at the Youth Development Center is beginning

Staff: None

Board Members:

Garrylee said there were two trees taken down at Bronson Park. He inquired about how much money is left in the Bronson Park tree fund to replace those trees. Frances indicated that she thought it was around \$18,000. Frances also said that there are two arborists employed by the City, so they should have some good suggestions on replacement of those trees.

Michael questioned color choices of playground equipment. He indicated that he personally would like to see more “natural” colors. Frances indicated that the colors are chose by the surrounding residents of each park.

Michael also asked if the issue of teams using foul language at the softball fields had been addressed. Frances said that staff had been spoken to.

Gary shared that he received an e-mail voicing concern about pollution in the pond at Knollwood Park. Frances informed the Board that Public Services is looking into this.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Brown, Recording Secretary