

**APPROVED**  
**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**  
**July 7, 2009**

Chair Wager called the meeting to order at 5:16 pm in the Parks and Recreation Community Room in Mayors' Riverfront Park.

**Roll Call:**

**Members Present:** Gary Wager, Larry Ross, Natalie Patchell, and Michael Dombos. Garrylee McCormick arrived at 5:23 pm

**Members Absent:** none

**City Commission Liaison:** Barbara Miller, arrived at 5:31 pm

**Friends of Recreation Liaison:** Vacant

**Staff Present:** Mark Polega and Lisa Brown

**Introduction of Guests:** Bill Steinman, ECC and Shawn Brier, Board Applicant

**Changes to the Agenda:** None

**Special Presentations:** Shawn Brier told the board a little about himself. He is originally from Flint, is a WMU Grad, and is an Engineer @ Stryker. He is interested in outdoor activities and would like to be involved in helping to preserve those opportunities for future generations.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the June 2, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Board Member Applicant – Shawn Brier** – The board unanimously recommended Shawn for appointment to the board.

**August Meeting** – Reminded board the date was changing to Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, so as not to conflict with the National Night Out Events throughout the community.

**Resignation of David Carrigan** – The resignation was unanimously accepted. Gary asked if Zadie Jackson will be taking David's place @ the PRAB meetings.

**Event Recommendations for Approval:**

***The following events were unanimously recommended for approval:***

- Kalamazoo Pagan Pride Community Festival at Milham Park, August 30, 2009 from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm
- Dream Center Community Festival at Bronson Park, August 14, 2009 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm (for set up) and August 15, 2009 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm (event expected to start at 1:00 pm). ***This event was previously approved with a date of July 11, 2009. This is the same event, only change is the date.***

***The following event was unanimously not recommended for approval:***

- Sky Productions Jazz Fest at South Westnedge (Pioneer) Park, July 17, 2009 from 6:00 am to 10:30 pm and July 18, 2009 from 11:00 am to midnight (Members of the board elaborated that they were taking this stance based on noise in the neighborhood and

their opinion that this type of event is not an appropriate use of this Park. They recommend that for this type of event the sponsor consider alternate options, such as the Arcadia Festival Site.

***The following event was tabled pending additional information:***

- ThingsTaDo.com 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at Bronson Park, September 26, 2009 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Comments:**

**Citizens – Non Agenda Items:** None

**Commission Liaison:** Barb asked about the status of the Friends Golf Outing

**Friends of Recreation Liaison:** Vacant

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

Frances was unable to attend the meeting, so Mark Polega shared the following information on the department's behalf:

- Blanche Hull/Milham Park Master Plan RFP has been sent out
- Frays Park playground is now complete and the neighborhood was considering holding an open house/grand opening event
- Spring Valley Park Bridge is being fabricated
- Kik Pool improvements, which include new fencing, tables, and remarketing, have been completed
- New maintenance building is going in @ Milham Park
- A new HVAC system is being installed at the YDC
- Friends of Recreation Golf Outing is July 17<sup>th</sup>, with the proceeds to help fund the YDC
- Recreation programs & Park use are in full swing; and having Brian Bailey on board has helped the system immensely.

**Staff:** None

**Board Members:**

Michael asked if all the Recreation programs are full. Lisa indicated that many are not only full, but waitlists have been set up.

Gary asked how things were going with YOU staffing. Mark indicated that the process with getting youth on board is slower this year because of the federal funding of the program.

Natalie spoke to Sharon Feraro regarding the process of redoing a brick road, and asked about the road at Crane Park. She indicated that there is some sort of grant out there that does the brick road repair as part of a win-win situation in which those interested in this type of work get the experience, and the road work is done at no expense to the municipality. She suggested that the department contact Sharon to inquire about the possibility of getting this work done as part of that grant. Mark said he would contact Sharon.

Michael asked about the Panelite Site – part of the Brownfield plan. He wanted to know who was responsible for these decisions. Barb asked if he was talking about the Davis Creek site. Discussion further ensued about this and the Allied site and the boundaries of each. Gary said that the Portage Creek Corridor plan has some ideas for this, including leaving green space. Natalie spoke to Jack Urban @ Kalamazoo County Parks who indicated he was going to speak with Frances about this site, as well as Blanche Hull.

Garrylee said he has received phone calls about deer getting into residential properties. The question was posed if the Parks department or the DNR can do anything about this problem. Bill Steinman said that there had been discussion about options of dealing with this issue earlier this year, but had been tabled a few months ago. This decision was based partly on the fact that options that were being explored, such as shooting the deer or administering birth control to the female deer, were very expensive and they would be met with public opposition.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Brown, Recording Secretary