

DRAFT
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
August 5, 2009

Vice Chair McCormick called the meeting to order at 5:21 pm in the Parks and Recreation Community Room in Mayors' Riverfront Park.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Garrylee McCormick, Shawn Brier, Larry Ross, Natalie Patchell, and Michael Dombos.

Members Absent: Gary Wager

City Commission Liaison: Barbara Miller

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Vacant

Staff Present: Frances Jewell and Lisa Brown

Introduction of Guests: Bill Steinman, ECC

Changes to the Agenda: Additional event recommendation was added as item "D".

Special Presentations: None

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

Old Business: None

New Business:

Upjohn Park Redevelopment Grand Opening Celebration – Frances informed the board that the grand opening celebration for the Upjohn Park Redevelopment was going to be Friday, August 7, 2009 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. She encouraged the board to attend and reminded them to RSVP.

Event Recommendations for Approval:

The following events were unanimously recommended for approval:

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kalamazoo Annual John Dailey Memorial One One Run @ Spring Valley Park – January 1, 2010 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Light The Night Walk @ Bronson Park – October 17, 2009 from 1:00 pm to 10:00 pm
- First Congregational Church Celebrating Kalamazoo as Inclusive and Diverse @ Bronson Park – October 11, 2009 from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm

The following event was recommended for approval (vote was 4 yes, 1 no):

- ThingsTaDo.com 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament @ Bronson Park – September 26, 2009 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. ***The board wanted it noted they had concerns about the location of the inflatables being proposed for use as well as they felt Bronson Park was not the appropriate venue for this type of event.***

Comments:

Citizens – Non Agenda Items: None

Commission Liaison: Barb said that it was going to be a tough budget year and stressed the importance of citizen input. She urged the board to voice support of the Parks & Recreation department. Shawn volunteered to draft a letter in support of the department.

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Vacant. Barb said that she spoke to Zadie Jackson who expressed interest in the position.

Parks and Recreation Managing Director – Monthly Report:

Frances gave the following CIP updates:

- Frays Park playground is complete
- There was a bid opening for a new scoreboard here at MRP Football/Soccer Field
- Spring Valley Park Bridge is being fabricated, possibly installed by the end of August
- Milham Park maintenance building – old one has been demolished and bids have been received & awarded
- Kik Pool improvements have been completed and the grand opening celebration will be August 7th
- Putting construction documents together for the Fairmount Dog Park
- HVAC system at YDC should be completed soon
- A section of roadway in Milham Park was repaired/replaced because it was in such disrepair
- Blanche Hull/Milham Park Master Plan – received 3 bids back, which are being reviewed to make an award recommendation

Frances also informed the board that a Geosciences professor @ WMU will be using woods lake for one of their projects.

The Friends of Recreation Golf Outing was held on July 17th, with the money raised from that event going to help offset the expenses at the YDC. Frances thanked Barb Miller for all of her support. Frances said the final numbers were not in yet, but approximately \$10K will be the net proceeds from this year's event.

Lastly, Frances informed the board that the City will be undergoing a process involving the evaluation of our Parks to determine acceptable/appropriate uses of each of the parks. She indicated that she would like to have three members of the Board help in this evaluation process this fall. She said she will be looking for volunteers at the September meeting. Natalie voiced interest in participating in the evaluation process.

Staff: None

Board Members:

Natalie asked about the status of the brick road project at Crane Park that was discussed at the July meeting. Frances was absent at the July meeting, but said she would follow up with Mark on this issue.

Garrylee said there was a tree removal request made to the tree committee. The request was for removal of a maple tree at Riverside Cemetery to make way for an improved traffic signal system at the intersection of Paterson and Riverview.

Michael said there was a large family gathering/picnic at Dutton Park in which they had originally left the park a mess. The event participants returned around 10 pm and cleaned it up. He wondered if there were any specific options available for dealing with this issue. Frances indicated that it is not required to reserve a park in order to use it. Since the park wasn't

reserved, we have no way of knowing who to approach “after the fact”. She said that we are faced with these types of conditions regularly.

Larry asked if there is anything the people are required to do/have to prevent this or hold them responsible. The answer was yes, if it has been reserved. If they haven't reserved the park, we have no way of knowing who did it, so we can't go after them.

Bill said they are looking at the deer issue again at their September 16th meeting. A representative from the Nature Center will be there to discuss their efforts.

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

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Brown, Recording Secretary