

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
September 1, 2009

Chair Wager called the meeting to order at 5:17 pm in the Parks and Recreation Community Room in Mayors' Riverfront Park.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Gary Wager, Garrylee McCormick, Shawn Brier, and Larry Ross. Natalie Patchell arrived at 5:27 pm

Members Absent: Michael Dombos

City Commission Liaison: Barbara Miller arrived at 5:19 p.m.

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Zadie Jackson present, Steve Tyler absent

Staff Present: Frances Jewell and Lisa Brown

Introduction of Guests: Bill Steinman, ECC

Changes to the Agenda: Four event recommendations added: Day of Dignity, KIA Art Fair, Ministry with Community, and New Years Fest. Also added to the agenda, was the draft letter to the Commission voicing the Board's support of the funding for the Parks & Recreation department.

Special Presentations: None

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

Old Business: Park Evaluation (what type of events are appropriate at what parks) was brought up at the August meeting. Frances had mentioned that she would need a couple of people from the Board to help in this process. Natalie, Garrylee and Shawn volunteered and will talk to Frances after the meeting to schedule a time to begin this process. Frances said she would like to have the evaluation process done by the end of the year.

New Business:

Friends of Recreation Liaison – Steve Tyler and Zadie Jackson

Zadie indicated she and Steve are acting as co-liaisons to make sure that there will always be at least one Friends member in attendance at the PRAB meetings.

Draft letter to Commission in support of Parks & Recreation - Discussed letter and made revision suggestions. Shawn will make the agreed upon corrections and read the letter for public record at a City Commission meeting. This was unanimously approved.

Event Recommendations for Approval:

The following events were unanimously recommended for approval:

- KIA Art Fair at Bronson Park, June 4, 2010 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm and June 5, 2010 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Ministry with Community Candlelight Vigil and March at Bronson Park, November 20, 2009 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- New Years Fest at Bronson Park, December 31, 2009 from 5:30 pm to 12:30 am

The following event was recommended for conditional approval pending payment from last year (vote was 4 yes, 1 no):

- Islamic Relief Day of Dignity at Martin Luther King Memorial Park, September 12, 2009 from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm

Comments:

Citizens – Non Agenda Items: None

Commission Liaison: Barb thanked the Board for the support letter

Friends of Recreation Liaison: None

Parks and Recreation Managing Director – Monthly Report:

Frances gave the following CIP updates:

- RFP went out for Blanche Hull/Milham Master Plan awarded to OCBA, with planning process to begin next Thursday 9/10/09 at 9:30/10:00 am
- Spring Valley Bridge is in place and planks are being put in, so the bridge will be done within the next week
- Construction documents are being drafted for Fairmount Dog Park. The documents should be done in October and construction is to begin in Spring, 2010
- A grant request was submitted to the Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation for LaCrone and Woods Lake. We will also be applying to the State and whatever funding we have secured by next August/September, we will begin the improvements tailored to those amounts
- A new scoreboard has been purchased for Soisson-Rapacz-Clason Field. The scoreboard is state of the art LED, and includes advertising panels and the City logo

Frances also informed the board that the department has requested four CIP projects for 2010. Those projects include: Flooding Engineering at MRP, Asphalt Repair at MRP, Electrical Upgrades & Sanitary Sewer connection for Milham Park restrooms, and Lighting Improvements at Rose Park Veterans Memorial Park.

Frances said that she is thankful for all the work that Mark Polega has done with the CIP projects for this summer.

Staff: None

Board Members:

Shawn brought up that he had been hearing residents complaining about the deer problem. Bill indicated that they were going to have a representative from the Nature Center speak at their next meeting, which is September 16 at 4:30 p.m. in the City Hall Community Room.

Larry brought up the Drake Road/US 131 area improvement plans. He is against making this area more of a business park, like WMU wants. Bill indicated that he believes the ECC is also opposed to the development of this area because it could make the conditions of the lake worse.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Brown, Recording Secretary