

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
October 6, 2009

Chair Wager called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm in the Parks and Recreation Community Room in Mayors' Riverfront Park.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Gary Wager, Garrylee McCormick, Shawn Brier, and Natalie Patchell

Members Absent: Michael Dombos and Larry Ross

City Commission Liaison: Barbara Miller

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

Staff Present: Frances Jewell and Lisa Brown

Introduction of Guests: Sharon Ferraro and Peter Carroll – Historic Preservation Committee

Changes to the Agenda: Added item about access road in Blanche Hull as a special presentation.

Special Presentations: **Sharon Ferraro – Ianelli Fountain** – The condition assessment/evaluation has been completed. The “Fountain of Pioneers” was installed in the late 1930’s and dedicated in 1940. Damage has been caused to the fountain by the freeze/thaw cycle. The cost to restore the fountain and do plumbing upgrades will be \$250,000 – 280,000. The Historic Preservation Committee is looking at getting a cover (which will exclude the upright part of the fountain) to prevent the damage from recurring. The cover will be similar to the concrete that is already there and will be designed in such a way as to not be inviting as a shelter to the homeless. The Coy Awning Company will install, remove and store the cover annually at a cost of \$600 – 700 annually. The fabrication and installation is about \$3,000, which means total cost would be about \$10,000 over a period of 10 years.

Access Road @ Blanche Hull – Frances presented the Board with plans for a gravel access road into Blanche Hull that the Public Services Department needed to allow the City access to that part of the sanitary sewer system. She said it would have a gate system to keep the public out and would be maintained by the Public Services Department. The proposed route/site was selected with the help of Mark Polega, Parks Manager, and it was determined that there are no trees of value on the route chosen.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the September 1, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

Old Business: **Park Evaluation meeting schedule** – had one meeting only Frances and Garrylee attended; Shawn, Natalie and Deb Droppers did not attend. The group agreed to meet every other Monday (2nd and 4th Monday of each month) at 5:15 p.m. starting October 26th

New Business:

2010 – 2015 CIP – The proposed CIP projects for 2010 – 2015 was given to the board as informational

Event Recommendations for Approval: None

NOTE: First Presbyterian Church Blessing of the Animals Service at Bronson Park on Sunday, October 4, 2009 from 2:45 – 3:45 p.m. – **(Approved by e-mail vote 5 yes, 1 no response)**

Comments:

Citizens – Non Agenda Items: Bill provided an update about the last ECC meeting, regarding the Nature Center's approach to control the deer population. He shared that they use screened applicants and shut down the Nature Center to shoot the deer. The numbers increase to begin with but then start to go down. This tends to push the population to outside areas. He indicated he was not sure where the ECC is going with the issue from here, but it is on the agenda for the next meeting.

Commission Liaison: Barb said she really appreciated that Shawn Brier attended the last City Commission meeting to read the letter voicing support of the Parks & Recreation department.

Friends of Recreation Liaison: None

Parks and Recreation Managing Director – Monthly Report: Frances said the budget has been submitted and the process has begun. It will be reviewed by the administration and then will go to Commission. She informed the Board that when there is more concrete numbers she will share that information with the board.

Staff: Reminded the board that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 4th

Board Members: Garylee would like an updated contact list for the board members. Also, Garylee said that he met with Lorence Wenke and discussed the possibility of having perennials donated. He suggested maybe getting some donated and stored at Wenke. Frances indicated that the City is looking at having more perennials at Bronson Park, instead of tulips. Mark is a landscape architect so he will be working with Kalamazoo in Bloom to come up with a design. A suggestion was made that once we have a design in place, the City should put out a flyer asking for the public to make donations. Frances said we can look at pursuing this further.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Brown, Recording Secretary