

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
2/2/2010

Vice Chair McCormick called the meeting to order at 5:18 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 Meka Phillips

Members Absent: Michael Dombos and Teeoncey Sanders

City Commission Liaison: Barbara Miller arrived at 5:33 pm

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Zadie Jackson arrived at 5:28 pm and Steve Tyler absent

Staff Present: Mark Polega and Lisa Brown

Introduction of Guests: Larry Harris (from LL Harris and Associates), Frank Wolf and Chris Bartley (from FOWL), Nina Barnes, Courtney McNaughton, and Aaron Glickson (WMU students)

Changes to the Agenda: Four additional event recommendations

Special Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes: It was noted that the minutes incorrectly identified Meka Phillips as a Youth Board Member. With the change to eliminate the word "youth" from the minutes, the minutes from the January 5, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Vote on Chair & Vice-Chair positions: this item had been tabled from the December meeting due to lack of quorum. Garrylee McCormick was nominated as Chair and Natalie Patchell as Vice-Chair. Both nominations were unanimously approved.

New Business:

Public Input on Grant Applications to the State for Woods Lake & LaCrone Parks:

Mark discussed that the City will be applying to the State for grants for LaCrone and Woods Lake Beach Parks. He indicated that they would apply for a grant through the Land and Water Conservation Fund for LaCrone Park, and the largest grant possible would be \$100,000. Priorities of improvements include a new restroom and shelter and barrier-free parking and walkway to connect to the shelter. The City already has additional funds, so if the grant is received, the total project would be about \$300,000 to \$320,000. The proposed improvements would provide a good spot for recreational programming for the department to use. Additional trees may be planted depending on the funding. Larry Ross expressed concern that some of the older people that live by the park are somewhat afraid to go into the park because it seems to be more set up for younger people. Again, depending on funding, other improvements would be a ¼ mile walking track, putting up new tennis courts away from the basketball courts. Garrylee discussed the possibility of handball courts, but another spot maybe possible and he would check into funding options.

The grant application for the Woods Lake Beach Park would be to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The City has already received funding of approximately \$225,000 for this project. Proposed improvements to this park include walkways, a new restroom/shelter, rain gardens, erosion stability, and fishing locations/overlooks. The goal is to keep more of the

natural features in place and to keep it more of a passive park. Frank Wolf discussed his involvement in FOWL and mentioned that the Oakwood Neighborhood Association (ONA) owns a piece of land adjacent to the Park. Chris Bartley voiced concern about losing approximately 1/3 of the walk area if the ONA owned land isn't developed. Mark said that the City can't include this in the grant application because it is not owned by the City. One of the budget cuts a few years ago resulted in not renewing the lease with ONA of that portion of land. Larry Ross said the last time he visited the area, it seemed segmented into the City-owned part, the Condo-owned part, and the homeowner part. He thinks the City should meet with the condos/homeowners to get input from them. Natalie said that part of this meeting was to gain public input. Notice of the meeting had been in the Kalamazoo Gazette and anyone was invited to attend. She also mentioned that there will be another public input meeting on March 2nd. Natalie made a motion that the Board support efforts of talks of "co-mingling" the parcels. Zadie said that maybe FOWL could fund raise for the portion they own and the City can apply for the grant for the portion they own. Garrylee said he will talk with Frances regarding the timeline for this issue and how it would be affected regarding the grant.

The grant application deadline for both projects is April 1st. Mark said that the award would probably not be made until August or September. If the City is successful in getting the grants, construction would probably not start until the Fall of 2011. If the City doesn't get the grants, the construction would probably start in the Spring of 2011. Motion to approve application for the grants unanimously carried.

Revisions to Parks Ordinance: Discussion about why it was decided that there was a need for not allowing dogs at Woods Lake Park. Mark said it was to alleviate issues of dogs being on the beach. Motion unanimously carried to strike the ban of dogs from Woods Lake Park, with a suggestion being made of to specify on the beach only. Ordinance revisions tabled until further discussion takes place.

Event Recommendations for Approval:

The following events were unanimously approved:

- Eagle Take Flight Promotions "Art in the Park" @ Milham Park – June 26, 2010 from 5:00 am (for set up) to 6:00 pm (for tear down)
- Kalamazoo Valley Crop Walk @ Bronson Park – May 2, 2010 from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm
- 4th Annual Mental Health Awareness Festival @ Bronson Park – May 14, 2010 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
- American Heart Association Start! Heart Walk @ Milham Park – May 21, 2010 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm (for set up) and May 22, 2010 from 6:00 am to 12:00 pm (for event)

The following event was table pending receipt of further information/details:

- Peace Pizzaz @ Bronson Park – May 22, 2010 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

The following event was denied (based on new park use rules allowing only 2 days in Bronson Park, and the request was for 4 days):

- Black Arts Festival @ Bronson Park – July 29, 2010 from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm, July 30 & 31, 2010 from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm, and August 1, 2010 from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm

(Note: the Board suggested the organizer look at the Arcadia Creek Festival Site as a possible alternative)

Comments:

Citizens: Bill Steinman said that Commissioner Anderson asked him to ask if the City had any input on whether the tract of land that WMU owns near Linden Grove Middle School would remain undeveloped.

Commission Liaison: None

Friends of Recreation Liaison: None

Parks and Recreation Managing Director – Monthly Report: Frances was not at the meeting, and staff had no information to report. Updates will be given at the March meeting.

Staff: None

Board Members: None

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:37pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Brown, Recording Secretary