

**APPROVED**  
**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**  
**3/2/2010**

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

**Roll Call:**

**Members Present:** Garrylee McCormick, Shawn Brier, Larry Ross, Natalie Patchell, Meka Phillips, and Teeoncey Sanders. Michael Dombos arrived at 5:25 pm

**Members Absent:** None

**City Commission Liaison:** Barbara Miller

**Friends of Recreation Liaison:** Zadie Jackson arrived at 5:18 pm and Steve Tyler absent

**Staff Present:** Frances Jewell and Lisa Brown

**Introduction of Guests:** Bill Steinman (ECC), Stefan Zaehr (intern), Chris Bartley and Frank Wolf (FOWL), and Paul Ecklund (Disability Network of SW Michigan)

**Changes to the Agenda:** Additional event recommendation/ KPL 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Party in Park

**Special Presentations:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the February 2, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Old Business:**

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

Frances said the purpose of the meeting was to gain public input regarding the grant applications to the State for the Woods Lake and LaCrone Park improvement projects. For LaCrone Park, the department will apply for a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. For Woods Lake Park, the department will apply for a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. A request to submit the grant applications will go to Commission on 3/15. The grant application submission deadline for both grants is April 1. The time frame for the improvement projects is based on whether the City is successful in being awarded the grants. The time frame if they are awarded is to have design done early in 2011 and construction late in 2011. The time frame if they are not awarded will be adjusted because we will have to go back to the drawing board to scale back the projects based on the highest priorities of improvements. Frances highlighted the improvements to be made as follows:

**LaCrone Park** (Maximum grant award possible is \$100,000)

New Restroom/Shelter (with the department being able to do recreation programming out of the shelter)

ADA Accessible Parking inside the Park

Walkways

Improvements will include addressing sustainability issues such as water conservation fixtures, use of recycled materials and low epoxy paints/coatings, as well as skylights to reduce need for artificial lighting, etc.

**Woods Lake** (Maximum grant award possible is \$363,200 based on a 42.8% funding match)

Address water run off issues and ADA accessibility

New Restroom/Shelter

Trailways/Boardwalks, fishing deck, play equipment, landscaping, and rain garden

Will also address the same sustainability issues that were mentioned for LaCrone Park.

Chris explained that a rain garden is layers of absorbing soil and plants with large root systems to soak up the rain water into the plants and then nourish the water that runs off.

Michael asked if there are other buildings already in place like the proposed restroom/shelter structure to get an idea of how it looks. He would like to see something more aesthetic.

Frances indicated that the total funding available will drive the improvements that are available. Larry Ross wondered what kind of incline/decline will be there to get from the parking lot to the Beach/Park. Frances said it will be ADA accessible.

#### **Revisions to Parks Ordinance:**

Frances understood there was some concern over dogs not being allowed at Woods Lake. She has gotten this issue clarified to read "Under no circumstances shall a person allow a dog on or off a leash to be upon the Sandy Beach or in the water near the public swimming area at the Woods Lake Park". There was concern that we specify that we are allowing service animals as an exception. Frances will clarify this with the attorney's office. Board tabled support of parks ordinance revisions until service animal issue is clarified and the Board supplied with a copy of the revised ordinance.

#### **New Business:**

**Letters of Support for the Grant Applications to the State for Woods Lake and LaCrone Parks** - Unanimously approved and Garrylee to sign on behalf of the Board

**May Meeting Date/Location (Elections on May 4, 2010)** - Board would like meeting date/time to remain the same. Frances will secure a new location for that meeting.

#### **Event Recommendations:**

The following events were unanimously approved:

- Borgess Run for the Health @ Spring Valley Park – Saturday, April 24, 2010 from 8 am to 11 am
- Kalamazoo Community Foundation's Match Day @ Bronson Park – Wednesday, June 23, 2010 from 9 am to 7 pm
- 9/11 Commemorative Event @ Bronson Park – Saturday, September 11, 2010 from 11 am to 3 pm
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Walk @ Bronson Park – Saturday, September 25, 2010 from 1 pm to 10 pm
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Great Strides Walk @ Bronson Park – Saturday, May 8, 2010 from 9 am to 2 pm
- Kalamazoo Public Library 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Party in the Park @ Bronson Park – Wednesday, June 2, 2010 from 8 am to 12 pm

#### **Comments:**

**Citizens - Non Agenda Items** – Bill Steinman, on behalf of the ECC, commends the Parks & Recreation Department for addressing sustainability issues as part of the LaCrone & Woods Lake improvement projects. Frances asked for the ECC to provide a letter of support for the grant applications for those projects.

**Commission Liaison:** None

**Friends of Recreation Liaison:** None

**Parks and Recreation Managing Director – Monthly Report:** Board will be supplied the monthly report that is given to the City Manager's Office & City Commission. The Fairmount Dog Park will be going out to bid 3/8, with opening to be 3/31 and then will go to Commission for approval, probably in May. Hopefully construction will begin in June and completion by the end of year. Frances said she would like to see a dog park in each quadrant of the city.

**Staff:** None

**Board Members:** Shawn asked if there was any further information stemming from the last public meeting regarding the ONA owned section of land near Woods Lake Park. Frances said there was lack of communication issue between ONA and the City and she apologized for that. The City has agreed to provide in-kind support and ONA has agreed to let the City pursue the grant application now and then we will address more of this issue.

Garrylee asked about the status of grants from Kalamazoo Communities in Schools (KCIS) for Recreation programs. Frances said we have some verbal approvals, but not all programs have had formal contracts signed.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Brown, Recording Secretary