

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
4/6/2010

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, Natalie Patchell, Shawn Brier, Larry Ross, and Meka Phillips

Members Absent: Michael Dombos and Teeoncey Sanders

City Commission Liaison: Barbara Miller

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Zadie Jackson absent and Steve Tyler absent

Staff Present: Frances Jewell and Lisa Brown

Introduction of Guests: Bill Steinman (ECC), Caitlin Georgoff (WMU), Shawna Smith (WMU), Samantha Murray (WMU), Laura Nichols (KVCC), and Stephanie Purdue (KVCC)

Changes to the Agenda: Added Fairmount Dog Park to Old Business and Farmers' Market to New Business.

Special Presentations: None

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

Old Business:

Grant Applications to the State for Woods Lake and LaCrone Parks: the grant applications were submitted April 1st.

Revisions to Parks Ordinance: Frances highlighted that the wording for prohibiting dogs at Woods Lake Beach had been changed to allow for service dogs on the beach. The Board unanimously supported the revisions to the Parks Ordinance with that clarification having been made.

May Meeting Location: The May Board meeting will be held on 5/4/10 at City Hall in the Commission Chambers @ 5:15 pm.

Fairmount Dog Park: Garrylee questioned the fee for the park. Frances explained that it was to help offset the cost of maintenance/operation.

Dogs will be given tags to show that payment has been made to allow use of the Park. Public safety will not be monitoring this and we are currently not planning on having Parks/Recreation staff working in the park. If this changes, the cost would have to increase. Tags are to be rotated every other year, and anyone who brings in an old tag will get a discount on the new one.

The bid opening for the park was held on 3/31, and the bids ranged from about \$190K - \$260K and staff will need to evaluate the bids. Proposed improvements at the park include: relocating the existing parking lot to the left, adding a row of trees for screening the neighbors, and installing a rain garden, people/pet drinking fountain, toys, and benches. The park will have a designated area for small dogs, a shaded area, upgraded fencing facing the curb with chain link fencing at the back, and electric will be installed for future improvements. There will be dog waste bags provided at the park.

New Business:

Farmers' Market: Garrylee mentioned the article that appeared in the Kalamazoo Gazette about the Farmers' Market. Mark Polega had observed vendors using the market on a Saturday prior to the market being open for the season. Natalie wondered if we had a way of getting the vendors input to see if they are interested in having the Market open earlier or later in the year than it is currently. Frances said that the department is open to the possibility of the Market being open during the winter, but an analysis has to be done to make sure there is funding to cover the additional expenses. The spring meeting for the Farmers' Market vendors will be held on 4/22, and this can be brought up there for additional discussion. Frances said the current cost for a seasonal stall is \$390.00, and the season is from the first Saturday in May through the third Saturday in November. The Market is also open on Tuesdays and Thursdays during June through October, in addition to Saturdays. Frances said the lease for the flea market expired at the end of 2009 and the City has made the decision not to renew that lease.

Event Recommendations for Approval:

The following events were unanimously carried:

- Peace Pizazz @ Bronson Park – Saturday, May 22, 2010 from 1 pm to 5 pm
(Presented to the Board at the February meeting, but was tabled pending receipt of additional information)
- Urban Youth for Africa Fundraiser @ Bronson Park – Saturday, June 12, 2010 from 10 am to 8 pm
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention 5th Annual Out of the Darkness Walk @ Bronson Park – Saturday September 18, 2010 from 10 am to 3 pm
- One Day Without Shoes Rally @ Bronson Park – Thursday, April 8, 2010 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm
- Southwest Michigan Tea Party Patriots @ Bronson Park – Thursday, April 15, 2010 from 3:45 pm to 7:45 pm

Comments:

Citizens: None

Commission Liaison: None

Friends of Recreation Liaison: None

Parks and Recreation Managing Director – Monthly Report: Frances referenced the monthly report included in the agenda packet. She offered the following highlights:

Match Day Fundraiser for Friends of Recreation will be June 23rd and KCF will match donations made to Friends at that event.

Staff is working with Sunshine Rotary on lighting improvements at Rose Park Veteran's Memorial.

The summer programs brochure was mailed out this week and registration will be open to City residents April 12-16, and then open registration begins April 19.

Spring Break Mini Camp was held and it was very successful.

Work is being done behind City Hall for the 125th Anniversary Celebration, which will be held on 4/14.

Art hop was held in March.

Staff is working with Pam Roland to discuss the desired improvements at Martin Luther King Park.

Staff: None

Board Members: Garrylee talked about break-ins at the condos by Crane Park.

Natalie said they have written the plan to include Crane Park in the Master Gardner project. Also Natalie said they are trying to get Crane Park included as an approved site for Master Gardeners to earn hours. She also mentioned that Fertile Crescent Nursery is donating plants to Habitat for Humanity, and she will see if they would also be willing to donate to Crane Park.

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

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Brown, Recording Secretary