

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
December 6, 2005

Chair John Hilliard called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the Parks and Recreation Community Room in Mayors' Riverfront Park.

Roll Call:

Members Present: John Hilliard, Josh DeBruyn, Lance Ferraro, Larry Haley, Patricia Klein, Garrylee McCormick, and Gary Wager

Members Absent: None

City Commission Liaison: Barbara Miller

Staff Present: Frances Jewell, Pat Vinge

Procedural Matters: None

Introduction of Guests: Barbara McCrea, Co-President, Oakland Drive/Winchell Neighborhood Association; Zach Greening, Student Director Vine Street Neighborhood; Gina Antoniotti, Gilmore Festival; Brian Frankowski; John Urschel, Records and Information Manager; Fred Nagler and Carolyn Rutland, Public Services

Changes to the Agenda: *Old Business:* The Gateway Project was added to the beginning of Old Business; Event Fees—Sub-committee Update; Update on Sale of Parklands; *New Business:* Fountain Statue in Bronson Park; *Old Business:* FY2006 Budget Update; *New Business:* 2005 Annual Report; 2006 Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges; Board Applicants was added to the end of New Business.

Special Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes: The November 1, 2005 minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Western Gateway Project

Carolyn Rutland and Fred Nagler, Engineers from Public Services, discussed the West Gateway to the downtown. The streetscape encompasses College Park, the Arcadia Creek, and the traffic island associated with Oakland Drive, West Michigan Avenue and Lovell Street. As early as 1998, neighborhood residents as well as K-College, Western Michigan University and the City of Kalamazoo formed the Gateway Coalition. O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock and Associates was engaged to assist in drawing up plans for the visual enhancement of this entrance to the downtown. Funding for this project is a partnership of MDOT, federal, Western Michigan University, and grant funds with the City contributing in kind engineering and staff time. There will be historical interpretive signage, a

non-motorized bike path, and the island will be developed with a colonnade system. The Tree Committee has approved the design and there will be minimal tree removal, with the lilacs in the island area remaining. The project should go out to bid in late January with construction starting in the spring and project completion set for the end of September 2006.

Event Fees – Sub-committee Update

The sub-committee, Josh DeBruyn, Lance Ferraro, and Larry Haley presented their recommendation with Larry Haley presenting some dissenting recommendations. Larry primarily expressed the need to not limit the role of PRAB in recommending the waiver of fees for some events. He felt that the guidelines drawn up by the committee would put too many limitations on PRAB's advisory role. The flip side of this argument was that the guidelines would help to make any fee waiver recommendations as equitable as possible. The Board asked that the committee simplify and condense the guidelines for fee waiver and bring the document back to PRAB at a later meeting. As a result of Larry's term on PRAB expiring January 1, 2006, Pat Klein was asked to join the committee with Lance and Josh.

Update on Sale of Parkland

Frances Jewell shared that discussions were underway with Oakwood Neighborhood Association (ONA) on the Oakwood Memorial Beach lease between the City and ONA which owns Oakwood Memorial Beach. It appears a lease is not necessary in that ONA can maintain the beach area and obtain its own liability insurance without assistance from the City. Frances is also working with ONA and the City Attorneys Office to draw up a lease agreement with ONA for the City owned Springmont Tot Lot in which ONA would be responsible for maintenance of the tot lot. Letters are being sent to Allen Chapel AME Church and Bethany Reformed Church regarding non-renewal of the leases for two church owned tot lots which the City has been maintaining through previous lease agreements.

Barbara McCrea was recognized by Chair Hilliard and spoke concerning the 4 properties in the Winchell Neighborhood which at the October 4, 2005 meeting, PRAB had recommended be sold. John suggested that she meet with the City Attorneys who have been requested to research the possible sale of these properties. Frances offered to help set up an appointment for Barbara after the first of the year. ***PRAB amended the recommendation made by PRAB at the October 4, 2005 meeting regarding the properties located at 2731 Wellington, 2700 Parkview, 2915 Wellington and 2920 Brooklyn. PRAB approved a recommendation that the properties be removed from the list of parklands approved to be sold until possible legal issues related to the properties are resolved. The motion passed with a 5 to 2 vote.***

New Business

Iannelli Fountain in Bronson Park

Garrylee thanked and complimented John Urschel for the "Bronson Park and the Iannelli Fountain" history that he had compiled. The Board discussed some of the issues related to the fountain and the concerns that were being discussed on

all sides of the controversy. ***PRAB unanimously moved that Chair Hilliard send a letter to the City Commission stating that the Iannelli Fountain in Bronson Park is an historical monument and work of art that should be preserved and a plaque explaining the intent of the artist should be installed.***

Old Business

FY2006 Budget Update

Frances gave the Board a comparison of FY2005 Adopted Budget and the FY2006 Proposed Budget; Parks and Recreation Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Summary; and a Budget Reduction Summary of items that have been eliminated or reduced from the Parks and Recreation budget. Increases in utilities and health costs as well as the addition of the previously grant funded Youth Development Program Liaison position impacted the FY2006 Proposed Budget. The PRAB packet also included the Parks and Recreation 2005 Accomplishments and 2006 Goals.

Two CIP projects have funding assured: the DNR renovation project at Upjohn Park and the Southside Park Improvement Project.

Garrylee McCormick and Pat Klein asked Frances to give kudos to Pat Roush, Parks and Recreation Market Master at the Kalamazoo Farmers' Market, for an excellent and friendly market experience this past summer.

John Hilliard said he was pleased with the thought given to the budget and the necessary reductions and thanked Frances for her work.

New Business

Annual Report – 2005

The draft Annual Report was included with the meeting packet and John asked members to review and bring comments back to the next meeting. John asked that the revision of Bylaws be added to the Annual Report.

FY2006 Parks and Recreation Proposed Fees and Charges

The Proposed Fees and Charges were also included in the December PRAB packet. Frances shared that the proposed fees and charges had few increases, with only modest increases in adult sports leagues and Mayors' Riverfront Park field rental fees. Farmers' Market stall fees were increased to cover projected 2006 expenses. It was noted that Upjohn Park will not be available for rental in 2006 due to the park redevelopment project that will begin next year. John suggested that the fee charged for stadium lights may be too low. Frances said staff will revisit these fees and do additional research before the proposed fees are finalized for Commission approval. Zach Greening suggested that a voluntary canoe launch fee could be charged and collected via the type of cast iron tube one sees at State Parks. He said Mayors' Riverfront Park was the only location in Kalamazoo where one could easily launch a canoe. Josh expressed support of this suggestion. ***PRAB unanimously recommended acceptance of the 2006 Parks and Recreation Proposed Fees and Charges.***

Board Applicants

PRAB unanimously recommended that Lance Ferraro be reappointed to a second three year term on the Board. PRAB discussed the possibility of amending the composition of the Board from two members between the ages of 15-17 to 16-21 years of age due to the difficulty the Board has had in seeking youth for the Board. Since this would involve an Ordinance change, PRAB will review the entire Ordinance for any other changes in 2006.

Event Approvals

The Board unanimously recommended that the Acting City Manager approve the following events:

- Kalamazoo Valley Museum/Re-enactment of Abraham Lincoln's Kalamazoo Address, Bronson Park –August 27, 2006
- Kalamazoo Institute of Arts – Art Fair, Bronson Park, June 2 and 3, 2006

Comments:

Citizens – Non Agenda Items: None

Commission Liaison Comments:

Commissioner Miller expressed appreciation for the list of Parks and Recreation 2005 Accomplishments and 2006 Goals that Frances provided to the Board. She also said that she believed Parks and Recreation had done a good job with the budget cuts that were required.

Parks and Recreation Director – Monthly Report

Frances shared that trees had been planted in the Dutton Street Park. The Kalamazoo Community Foundation has granted \$5,000 toward the Milham Park Master Plan. General Fund dollars totaling \$10,000 have been identified for Woods Lake Park Master Plan and the Fairmount Park Dog Park Master Plan. All three parks have citizen "Friends" groups that will be fundraising for the additional dollars needed for the master plans and will work with Parks and Recreation on the master plans.

Staff Comments: None

Board Member Comments:

The Board warmly thanked Garrylee McCormick for his years of service on the PRAB Board as well as his constant caring for the City of Kalamazoo. Garrylee's term expires on January 1, 2006.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Vinge, Recording Secretary

attachment: Parks and Recreation 2005 Accomplishments and 2006 Goals