

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
October 3, 2006

Chair John Hilliard called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the Youth Development Center.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Zachary Greening, Lance Ferraro, Gary Wager, Patricia Klein, Gina Antoniotti, John Hilliard, Michael Dombos, and Brian Fricke (5:40)

Members Absent: Griffin Williams (excused)

City Commission Liaison: Barbara Miller

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Absent

Staff Present: Frances Jewell and Pat Vinge

Procedural Matters: None

Introduction of Guests: Larry Ross, Oakland/Winchell Neighborhood Association and Tom Dietz, Kalamazoo Valley Museum

Changes to the Agenda: Addition of Southside Park to New Business

Special Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes: *The September 5, 2006 minutes were unanimously approved.*

Old Business:

Bronson Park/Fountain Update—No new information

Dog Park Update

Frances shared that the second public meeting is scheduled for October 4 at 7:00 pm in the community room/Mayors' Riverfront Park and encouraged members to attend. Various parks were studied prior to settling on Fairmount Park in the old West Douglas Neighborhood, now Fairmont Neighborhood. The dog park has strong support from the Fairmont Neighborhood Association.

New Business:

Lincoln Memorial Historical Marker/Bronson Park

Tom Dietz from the Kalamazoo Valley Museum presented information on the relocation of the Lincoln Memorial historical marker in Bronson Park. The intent is to move it from the southwest corner of the park to a location closer to the actual site of Lincoln's speech. This site is currently occupied by a flower bed; not only will this cut down on mowing issues, but more importantly, it will be more accessible for viewing by the public. The committee will "replant" the marker at no cost to the City. ***A motion to approve the relocation of the Lincoln Memorial historical marker in Bronson Park was passed unanimously.***

Old Business (cont.):

Status of 2007 Budget and 5-Year Plan

Budgets are due to the budget team on October 16 for technical review. With minimum wage increases and inflation, the 3% increase basically produced a status quo budget. The City Manager's office will be sharing the 2007 proposed budget with the neighborhoods in November/December.

Crane Park Update

Frances shared that the condominium developer's requested setback variance was denied by the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Westledge Hill Neighborhood has requested that Crane Road, the north/south street through the park be closed to vehicular traffic. Frances suggested that staff conduct a public input meeting on the closure as it will also impact park use. John stated that an analysis on the impact on Crane Park should be conducted. Frances said that she did not know all the procedures involved with new development projects and would bring back additional information to the November meeting.

At 5:40, Brian Fricke joined the group and at 6:00, Zach Greening needed to leave.

Southside Park

There are \$60,000 in City dollars and \$15,000 in Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) from the residential development project at 2301 Flower Street, available in the CIP for Southside Park improvements. A public input meeting is scheduled for November 8 at 5:30 at the Edison Neighborhood Association, 816 Washington Avenue.

Event Recommendations

The Board unanimously recommended that the City Manager approve the following event:

- New Year's Fest, Bronson Park, December 31, 2006, 5:30 pm to 12:30 am

Comments:

Citizens – Non Agenda Items:

Larry Ross, representing the Winchell Neighborhood, asked about signage to discourage dumping of rubbish in the Parkdale Plat properties. Frances shared that signage is certainly possible, but questioned the effectiveness of the signage. She offered to meet with the group to discuss the possibility of the neighborhood association leasing the property from the City, which would give them more control over its use and maintenance.

Commission Liaison Comments: None

Friends of Recreation Liaison:

Gary Wager shared that the Friends of Recreation is working with Kenna Bridges to develop a higher recognition profile for Friends. They are also looking at projects they might support, possibly including the LaCrone Park renovations and the replacement of a passenger van to transport youth for Parks and Recreation programs.

Parks and Recreation Director – Monthly Report

Frances said that the Junior League held their “Do It In a Day” project in Upjohn Park on October 6 and provided volunteer landscaping for the Boundless Playground. City staff are preparing grant requests for the 2007 Summer Youth Employment Program.

Staff Comments: None

Board Member Comments:

Michael Dombos offered to be an alternate for the Tree Committee. ***The Board unanimously appointed Michael Dombos to serve as alternate for the Tree Committee.*** City staff will contact the staff liaison for the Tree Committee to determine what steps need to be taken to appoint an alternate.

Gary Wager shared that 35-40 people attended the October 8 ONA presentation on the history of Woods Lake Beach. Upon completion of the Woods Lake redevelopment plan, the project will be included in the Parks and Recreation 5 Year Plan,

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Vinge, Recording Secretary