

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
February 7, 2006

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, Patricia Klein, Zack Greening, and Gina Antoniotti

Members Absent: Lance Ferraro and Gary Wager (both excused)

City Commission Liaison: Barbara Miller

Staff Present: Frances Jewell, Pat Vinge, and Marian Howell

Procedural Matters: None

Introduction of Guests: None

Changes to the Agenda: An event was added to Event Approvals.

Special Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes: The January 3, 2006 minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Update – Eastside Youth Center

Frances shared that on 1/19/06, a public meeting was held at the ENA (Eastside Neighborhood Association) to discuss the proposed youth center which would be built at Rockwell Park. Approximately 40 people attended and there was great support for the project. The next steps are to secure grant funding for the construction of the building (\$5 million) and to create a plan for funding the operating budget. In the proposed plan, the Boys and Girls Club would have a long term lease on the building and be responsible for operating the Center. Frances said that letters will be going out to residents living in the Rockwell Park area to announce further public meetings.

FY2006 Budget Update

Frances shared that the City Commission had restored \$10,000 in funds for ENA's operation of the current Youth Center. John Hilliard commended the Commission for fiscal responsibility in putting some of the non-budgeted dollars back into the Fund Balance.

Chautauqua Day Camp

Frances emphasized that during the budget reduction process, one of the areas staff looked at was how well programs served our core recipients (low income

residents). In recent years, Chautauqua registration has dropped from a high of over 200 youth to 125 youth. Staff researched similar programs in the community that also have financial assistance available and found that several other programs are available. The Parks and Recreation Playground Program operates at 7 sites throughout the City serving more than 280 children at a much lower cost than the Chautauqua program. Chautauqua costs the City \$42,000 and Playgrounds cost \$61,000. Staff is sending a letter out to former Chautauqua participants giving other local options as well as the Parks and Recreation playground sites for 2006.

Update on Parklands and City Attorney

Frances said that she met with Barbara McCrea of the Oakland Drive/Winchell Neighborhood Association and John Kneas, Assistant City Attorney, regarding the potential sale of 4 City-owned properties in the Winchell Neighborhood. Ms. McCrea shared information she had with John and Frances. Frances confirmed to PRAB that the Attorney's Office will determine **if** the properties can be sold; if they can be sold, the City Manager's Office will determine whether or not the properties will be sold. Josh suggested that Frances provide new PRAB members, Gina Antoniotti and Zachary Greening, as well as Commissioner Miller, with a copy of the Property Assessment that PRAB reviewed in the fall.

Review PRAB recommendation for VerSluis/Dickinson property (1000 W. Dunkley)

At the October 4, 2005 PRAB meeting, this property was recommended for sale by PRAB with proceeds to be placed in the Kalamazoo Municipal Recreation Endowment. Frances shared that Public Safety has recommended to the Administration that this property be used for a fire safety course/training site. Frances confirmed that she supported this use. ***PRAB amended the October 4, 2005 recommendation to sell the 1000 W. Dunkley property. PRAB recommended that this property be turned over to Public Safety to be used as a fire safety course/training site. The motion passed unanimously.***

Determine July PRAB meeting date

Tabled until the March 7 meeting (tentatively set for July 11).

Springmont Tot Lot

As recommended by PRAB on October 4, 2005, the Oakwood Neighborhood Association (ONA) has requested a lease for the tot lot, specifying that ONA will maintain the property, the playground equipment will stay, and the City will retain liability insurance for the property. A 10 year lease for the Springmont Tot Lot with ONA was approved by the City Commission on February 6, 2006.

Chair Hilliard observed that this is another instance of a neighborhood and the City working together during difficult budget times.

New Business

Potential sale of northeast corner of Pitcher and Mosel

Frances stated that this is the old site of the Parks nursery next to the former Goodwill on Pitcher. The City's Community Planning and Development Department has received a request to purchase the 7.61 acre site for \$20,000 an acre. The Property Review Committee recommended the sale at their January 13, 2006 meeting. John Hilliard asked if this was the site of a community garden and if so how many people were involved in it. Frances replied that she would contact the people who have a lease on the property and would bring that information back to the next meeting. ***PRAB unanimously recommended the sale of the property on the northeast corner of Pitcher and Mosel with proceeds to be placed in the Kalamazoo Municipal Recreation Endowment.***

Pesticide/Herbicide Committee – Appoint 2nd PRAB member

Josh DeBruyn is currently a member. ***PRAB unanimously recommended that Gina Antoniotti be appointed to the committee.***

Event Approvals

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

- “Art in the Park” – Eagle Take Flight Promotions, Milham Park, June 24, 2006 from 4 am (set-up) to 6:00 pm
- Borgess Health Alliance – Borgess Run for the Health of It, Spring Valley Park, April 29, 2006 from 8 am to 11 am
- Bethany Christian Services – 5K “Fun Run”, Spring Valley Park – May 13, 2006 from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon
- “Defining Democracy”—Great Lakes PeaceJam, Bronson Park – Saturday, April 1, 2006, 1:00-4:00 pm
- Pagan Pride Day, Milham Park, September 23, 2006 from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm
- Kalamazoo Deacons' Conference, LaCrone Park, Community Gathering, Saturday, June 17, 2006, 9:00 am-5:00 pm
- Kalamazoo Deacons' Conference, LaCrone Park, Round Ball Classic Basketball Tournament, July 21-23, 2006, 10:00 am-10:00 pm
- Kalamazoo Deacons' Conference, LaCrone Park, Back Pack Event, Friday, August 25, 2006, 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Comments:

Citizens – Non Agenda Items: None

Commission Liaison Comments: Commissioner Miller observed that during the budget process Parks and Recreation was required to cut approximately 12%

while Public Safety's budget reduction was approximately 2%. However, she also shared that she did see City Commission support for youth programs.

Parks and Recreation Director – Monthly Report

Frances announced that two public meetings were scheduled for the LaCrone Park master plan, March 2 and 16, 2006 at 7:00 at the NACD building. Frances provided an update on the Bethany Tot Lot, saying that the playground equipment has been removed. An RFP on Pouring Rights is due back on March 2, 2006.

Staff Comments: None

Board Member Comments:

Josh will miss the March 7 meeting due to vacation and Pat Klein may also miss this meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Vinge, Recording Secretary