

**APPROVED**  
**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**  
**April 4, 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, Lance Ferraro, Gary Wager, Zack Greening, Gina Antoniotti, Josh DeBruyn and Patricia Klein

**Members Absent:** None

**City Commission Liaison:** Barbara Miller

**Staff Present:** Frances Jewell and Marian Howell

**Procedural Matters:** None

**Introduction of Guests:** Citizens Larry Ross and Phil Hughes, and Western Michigan University students Casey Bucklander, Rachel Bender (and one additional unnamed student)

**Changes to the Agenda:** Add Tree Committee Report under New Business.

**Special Presentations:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** *The March 7, 2006 minutes were unanimously approved.*

**Old Business:**

**PRAB Ordinance Review**

There was discussion as to the age of Board members and specific wording to use. It was moved by Gary Wager, seconded by John DeBruyn and passed unanimously to leave wording as is but change age to read youth 15-20:  
***Section 23-40 will read, "...at least two (2) of the Board's members shall be fifteen (15) to twenty (20) years old at the time of their appointment." (Sec. 23-30)***

**City Five-Year Plan Update**

No update by City Commission. Recommended budget issues will be discussed in June.

**LaCrone Park Plan Update**

Master Plan is completed and Frances presented a blueprint showing the design. It was asked by WMU student Casey Bucklander, if the shelter could be solar-paneled.

### **Woods Lake Beach/Park Update**

A grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation was awarded to Oakwood Neighborhood Association for a Master Plan. A plan may possibly be ready by May, but the challenge will be the funding to make things happen. Friends of Woods Lake are making an effort to get the word out to neighbors and get better turnouts for public meetings.

### **Upjohn Park/Boundless Playground Update**

Boundless Playground scheduled for completion June 30. Equipment is on site.

### **Milham Park Update**

Parks staff replaced a bridge north of the large pavilion.

### **Winchell Area Parklands**

No new information.

### **Bronson Park Statue Update**

It has been agreed that the statue should not remain as it is. A committee has been put together to study the issue and report to the Commission. PRAB has recommended that the statue stay, but a plaque be put up.

### **New Business**

#### **Youth Applicant for PRAB**

Griffin Williams is the youth applicant. He is currently in Florida but will be in Kalamazoo for interview at the May meeting. PRAB has copies of his application.

### **Friends of Recreation Liaison**

Gary Wager expressed interest in being PRAB's liaison to Friends of Recreation. A motion was made and carried unanimously to ***appoint Gary Wager as the PRAB liaison with Friends of Recreation.*** John will talk with Mike Schlack before the next meeting to discuss the motion. Friends meetings are held 4:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month in the Community Room.

### **Tree Committee Report:**

#### ***Parks Report***

Pat Klein reported that the emerald ash borer has been identified at Milham Park. Treatment may be expensive because it takes multiple treatments. Arborists are waiting on state recommendation.

#### ***Non-Parks Report***

Pat also reported that there will be reconstruction between Reed and Bryant streets. The state plans to take out 23 trees. City Ordinance mandates any trees taken down to be replaced.

## **Event Recommendations**

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

- Hispanic American Council, Women's Health Fair, Reed Park, May 13, 2006, 8 am-4 pm
- First Assembly of God—Dream Center Community Festival, Bronson Park—Friday and Saturday, August 11 and 12, 2006
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, 2006 Light the Night Walk, Bronson Park, Saturday, September 30, 2006
- American Diabetes Association—Annual America's Walk for Diabetes, Milham Park, October 7, 2006
- Douglass Community Association—Silent Auction and Celebrity Softball Game, Mayors' Riverfront Park/Homer Stryker Field, June 15, 2006
- Kalamazoo Hispanic American Council Cesar Chavez Commemoration and Walk, Bronson Park –Thursday, March 30, 2006, 9:30-11:00 am (unanimous approval by e-mail 3/14/06)

## **Comments:**

**Citizens – Non Agenda Items:** None

**Commission Liaison Comments:** None

## **Parks and Recreation Director – Monthly Report**

Frances shared Pagan Pride Day was changed from September 23 to September 10, 2006.

The property on Mosel and Pitcher has been sold for \$152,000. We will recommend that funds from the sale reimburse ED & P for title work they did; \$100,000 will go to the endowment and \$50,000 will be set aside to purchase land in the future that is adjacent to another park.

The Police Fire Training Area needs an environmental assessment.

Frances said it was decided not to reserve Upjohn Park for 2006 because of potential construction. Construction may be occurring throughout the summer, but it was decided not to reserve the park and risk conflicts and relocations of events.

**Staff Comments:** None

## **Board Member Comments:**

Josh asked about bike path as opposed to trailway. Frances responded that the trailway will go through Portage Bicentennial Park to Blanche Hull with a segment going through Upjohn Park.

Gary asked if the Tot Lot at Oakwood Neighborhood Association went up for sale, would adjacent property owners have first option at buying that property. Frances indicated that offering to adjacent property owners is in accordance with

City's administrative policy for property disposal. The City can offer vacated right-of-way to adjacent property owners.

Lance suggested that the Farmer's Market is quite a gala place but that the buildings were drab. He would like to see young area artists dress up area with donated paint. Would the Board consider it as a youth project – something to make the area more festive? John suggested possible funding by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, or having youth groups from some of the neighborhoods do the painting. Frances responded that the Farmer's Market has their own Advisory Board and perhaps we could bring the concept up at the end of the season.

WMU student Rachel Bender suggested that high schools often offer graduation credit for doing community service projects like painting, and that some do-it-yourself stores donate paint for worthwhile projects.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Marian Howell, Acting Recording Secretary