

**APPROVED**  
**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**  
**May 2, 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, and Patricia Klein

**Members Absent:** Gina Antoniotti and Zachary Greening (excused). Josh DeBruyn was also absent, having given his resignation from the Board in an April 11, 2006 letter to John Hilliard and Frances Jewell. Josh has accepted a position with the Michigan Department of Transportation as the Statewide Non-motorized Trails Coordinator and will be working out of the Lansing area. He expressed appreciation for the 2.5 years he had served on the PRAB Board. Board members expressed thanks for his service to the community.

**City Commission Liaison:** Absent

**Staff Present:** Frances Jewell and Pat Vinge

**Procedural Matters:** None

**Introduction of Guests:** Michael Dombos and Griffin Williams, PRAB Board applicants

**Changes to the Agenda:** An update on the Parkdale Plats was added to Old Business; and an event in Bronson Park and a report from Gary Wager, PRAB's liaison to the Friends of Recreation was added to New Business.

**Special Presentations:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** *The April 4, 2006 minutes were unanimously approved.*

**Old Business:**

**Interview Applicants for PRAB Board**

Michael Dombos and Griffin Williams were interviewed by the Board. After the applicants left, the Board discussed their applications and ***unanimously approved the motion to accept both applicants.*** Griffin will be the first youth member on the Board.

**Woods Lake Beach/Park Update**

Gary Wager reported that a draft comprehensive plan is ready and citizen participation is being sought through public meetings. The next step will be approval by the City Commission and then a fundraising campaign.

**Update on Parkdale Plat Properties**

Pat Klein was asked by neighbors of the Plat properties to bring the following concerns to PRAB. When would the City Attorney's Office have a determination on the property? Frances replied that the City Attorney had indicated that the determination should be made within 60 days. Could signage be put up stating that no dumping is allowed on these properties? Frances shared that by City Ordinance, dumping is prohibited on all City property. She suggested that if residents observe someone dumping trash, that they try to get the vehicle license plate number and report the incident to Public Safety. Frances said that she would look into the possibility of signage at the properties and also offered to come to a neighborhood meeting and discuss the dumping issue.

### **New Business**

#### **Park Rules/Ordinance Changes – Recommendation**

A memo from Randy Schau, Deputy City Attorney, regarding proposed changes to the Park rules and the Ordinance with proposed changes were included in the agenda packet. Frances shared that the proposed Ordinance changes were made to allow the Ordinance to apply to all City owned public spaces, not just City parks, and also to address some behavioral issues such as fires, sleeping, and washing clothes that have occurred in public spaces. After brief discussion, **PRAB suggested that Section 1b, dealing with the prohibition of sleeping in parks from 9:00 pm and 8:00 am, be amended to read instead, "sunset to sunrise."** **With this addition, PRAB unanimously moved to recommend approval of the changes to the Ordinance.**

#### **Michigan Organizing Project (MOP) Immigration Rally in Bronson Park**

Frances reported that the Clerk's Office had received a verbal request from the Michigan Organizing Project (MOP) to use Bronson Park on May 1, 2006 for a rally on immigration reform. In light of some recent court rulings, the City Attorney's Office indicated that First Amendment rights would potentially be violated if the City required a rental fee for a political rally. However, if park amenities or City staff are required, fees can be charged. On April 25, 2006, the Clerk's Office received MOP's formal written request which did include use of electric for their sound system. Because park amenities were requested, the fee of \$250 for park rental was charged. John Hilliard suggested that the new policy regarding political rallies should be incorporated into the Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges schedule.

#### **Friends of Recreation Liaison Report**

Gary Wager said he was warmly welcomed by Friends of Recreation as PRAB's liaison to the Friends Board. He shared that Friends is considering an additional donation to the Junior League for the Boundless Playground which encountered soil issues at Upjohn Park which have increased the project's cost. Gary also reported that Friends unanimously agreed to devote one third of the Kalamazoo Municipal Recreation Endowment Fund's Spendable Income to the Parks and Recreation budget, contingent upon said funds being used to meet the Friends of Recreation Mission Statement. In addition, another one third of the Spendable Income may be made available for special needs as determined by the Board. Both of these actions move the Parks and Recreation Department closer to self-sufficiency. The remaining 40% of Spendable Income will remain in the Spendable

Income portion of the Endowment. The Friends Board also plans to choose one of their members as liaison to the PRAB Board.

### **Event Recommendations**

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

- Bronson Healthcare Group – Bronson 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Fair, Bronson Park, Saturday, September 9, 2006
- Alternatives of Kalamazoo – Life Walk, Bronson Park – Saturday, June 17, 2006, 7 am – noon
- Walk/Run for Lung Cancer, Bronson Park, Saturday, October 7, 2006, 10 am – noon
- Park Place Centennial Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Art Fair, South Westnedge Park – Saturday, September 16, 2006 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Gold Star Families for Peace, Bronson Park, Tuesday, May 16, 2006, 6-7 pm (*unanimous recommendation by phone/e-mail 4/13/06*)

### **Comments:**

**Citizens – Non Agenda Items:** None

**Commission Liaison Comments:** None

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

Frances reported that the fishing dock/bridge at Spring Valley Park is in very bad condition and people need to be kept off the bridge. Staff has been directed to remove 35' of the front and back of the bridge so people cannot access the bridge/dock. Other measures have been tried, but people still have accessed the dock. A cost estimate to replace the bridge and dock is being prepared.

The rebuilding of the retaining wall at Crane Park has resulted in the exposure of a large white pine's roots. The tree is in a precarious position and will be removed due to safety issues. Mark Polega, Parks Manager and Certified Arborist, as well as Todd Pryor, Forestry Supervisor and Certified Arborist, were consulted prior to this decision.

A Red Maple was planted in Mayors' Riverfront Park on Arbor Day in memory of longtime Park supervisor, Ted Wyman. A number of residents and former co-workers attended the ceremony.

**Staff Comments:** None

**Board Member Comments:** None

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Vinge, Recording Secretary