

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
August 2, 2006

Vice Chair Lance Ferraro called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the Parks Maintenance Building at Mayors' Riverfront Park.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Lance Ferraro, Gary Wager, Zachary Greening, and Griffin Williams

Members Absent: Patricia Klein, Gina Antoniotti, John Hilliard, and Michael Dombos

City Commission Liaison: Barbara Miller, present

Staff Present: Frances Jewell and Mary Ann Ampersee

Procedural Matters: None

Introduction of Guests: Jay Emery and Brian Fricke

Changes to the Agenda: Addition of Event Requests

Special Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes: *The July 11, 2006 minutes were unanimously approved.*

New Business: Interview Youth Applicant for PRAB Board

When asked, Mr. Fricke stated that he was interested in becoming involved and helping out the community and that PRAB was the only City board which allowed youth representatives. When asked what parks he was familiar with and what he would change in the parks, he stated that he would like to help enhance and improve the parks. Specifically, he stated he frequented Bronson and Frays Park and had noticed the need for additional playground equipment in Frays as there appeared to be a lot of unused open space.

The Board unanimously approved a recommendation to appoint him to the Board. He was informed that his appointment would need City Commission approval.

Old Business:

Discussion of PRAB & Friends of Recreation Bylaws and Ordinances

Ms. Jewell reminded the group that the bylaws and ordinances had been sent out in July for review as there had been several questions as to the role of each of these groups. None of the present Board members had any questions.

Determination of September Meeting Date

The Board agreed to meet on Wednesday, September 6, 2006 at a yet to be determined location which will be included in the next packet.

Event Recommendations

By telephone poll/e-mail, the Board unanimously recommended that the City Manager approve the following event:

- National Night Out events – Northside Neighborhood , Farrell Park and Eastside Neighborhood, Rockwell Park – August 1, 2006
- DKI, Step Out in Edison – Music and Mural Hop, Reed Park – August 8, 2006

Comments:

Citizens – Non Agenda Items: None

Commission Liaison Comments: None

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Gary Wager stated he had attended the last Friends of Recreation meeting where the Feasibility Study was discussed. He stated this study was conducted primarily to outline a \$40 million fund raising campaign designed to support parks and recreation operations and capital costs. He informed the group that as a result of the study, the “Friends” had decided to contract with a public relations/marketing firm to help residents better recognize this group and their goals. Further, he stated that the group had also decided to focus their fundraising efforts on one or two particular projects as they felt this effort would be more successful.

Parks and Recreation Director – Monthly Report

Ms. Jewell updated the group on the Summer Youth Employment program which currently employed over 200 youth. She stated this year’s program was very successful as more neighborhood coordination and pre-planning had occurred.

Ms. Jewell also stated that a request had been received from DKI/Step Out in Edison to hold a Music and Mural Hop at the Kalamazoo Farmer’s Market located on Bank Street. This event is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, 2006 from 6-8 pm. She informed the group that the Farmer’s Market would also be open on Tuesday afternoon/evenings from 3:00 pm until 8:00 pm in the hopes that those working during the day could take advantage of the market after normal working hours.

Ms. Jewell informed the group that a five year lease agreement between the City and Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers was going to be presented to the City Commission for their approval. She stated this agreement was a win-win compromise as the City had learned that a portion of Mayors’ Riverfront Park had been built on private property. The agreement included the installation of a buffer area along with installation of a fence for screening the business and a five year lease payment from the City of \$1,000 per year.

Ms. Jewell then stated that Derek Jeter's Turn 2 Foundation had funded a youth baseball training clinic at Mayors' Riverfront Park from Wednesday through Saturday of this week. She also stated that all of the recreation programs had been heavily attended with waiting lists and credited the efforts of Recreation Manager Denise Siegel and Parks Manager Mark Polega.

Staff Comments: None

Board Member Comments: Gary Wager asked if the information regarding the Turn 2 Foundation program had been included in the Parks brochure. Ms. Jewell stated that the information had been included and informed the group that this publication was mailed to every resident in the City.

Zachary Greening complimented the Summer Youth Program for the impact they had made on the Vine Neighborhood.

Gary Wager informed the group of the upcoming historic presentation at the Oakwood Neighborhood Association Center regarding Oakwood Park. This presentation is scheduled for August 20, 2006 at 2:00 pm.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Ampersee, Recording Secretary