

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
February 6, 2007

Vice-chair Ferraro called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm in the Parks and Recreation Community Room in Mayors' Riverfront Park.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Lance Ferraro, Gina Antoniotti, Gary Wager, Michael Dombos, Zachary Greening, Griffin Williams, and Brian Fricke

Members Absent: None

City Commission Liaison: Barbara Miller

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Absent

Staff Present: Frances Jewell and Shannon Shoemaker

Procedural Matters: None

Introduction of Guests: Larry Ross, Winchell Neighborhood Resident

Changes to the Agenda: None

Special Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes: *The December 5, 2006 and January 2, 2007 minutes were unanimously approved.*

Old Business:

2006 Annual Report

The 2006 Annual Report was unanimously approved.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Gary Wager was unanimously elected as Chair with Lance Ferraro unanimously elected as Vice-chair.

Martin Luther King Park Signage

The following motion was unanimously approved by PRAB: ***PRAB supports the replacement of the sign at Martin Luther King Park facilitated by the Kalamazoo Junior Girls organization and funded by the KCF/Martin Luther King Park Fund.***

New Business:

Friends of Recreation Communication / Image Plan

Frances shared that Friends of Recreation put together a Communication Plan to improve their visibility and increase their ability to fund raise. The funds raised by Friends are held by the Kalamazoo Municipal Recreation Endowment Fund, which currently is valued at nearly \$1 million. Last year, park property on Mosel was sold. The City received the amount of \$152,000 on February 2, 2007. Of these funds, \$6,000 went to Community Development to cover sales costs, \$46,000 is being held

for future park property purchase adjacent to a current park, and \$100,000 was deposited in the Kalamazoo Municipal Recreation Endowment Fund. No funds are currently needed to assist with the Parks and Recreation FY 2007 budget.

The Parks and Recreation 14 passenger van is in need of replacement, and Staff will be requesting that Friends of Recreation support the allocation of funds to cover half of the purchase price of the new van at their next meeting.

Recommendations

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

- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, 2007 Light the Night Walk, Bronson Park, Saturday, September 27, 2007
- Kalamazoo Institute of Arts – Art Fair, Bronson Park, June 1 and 2, 2007
- First Assembly of God – Dream Center Celebration of Hope, Bronson Park – Friday and Saturday, July 27 and 28, 2007
- “Art in the Park” – Eagle Take Flight Promotions, Milham Park, June 23, 2007 from 4 am (set-up) to 6:00 pm
- Bethany Christian Services – 5K “Fun Run,” Spring Valley Park – May 5, 2007 from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon

Comments:

Citizens – Non Agenda Items: At the January meeting, Pam Roland had expressed an interest in being on the Board. Frances sent her an application; applications are also available on the City’s website (kalamazoocity.org).

Commission Liaison Comments: Barbara Miller shared that she applied for the Award from America’s Promise and the City has earned “100 Best Communities for Young People” Award. The focus was on the Kalamazoo Promise and Parks and Recreation. The City now can apply for grant money of \$100,000 which could go for the Summer Youth Employment Program.

“100 Best Communities for Young People” may be included in the Parks and Recreation Summer Activity Guide, the City’s website, and Friends of Recreation flyers. The Board asked how to include awards such as this on street signs. Frances will follow-up with Public Services, which is responsible for street signage, and report back to the Board at the March meeting.

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Gary Wager shared that the property had been sold and that the money was in the Endowment Fund. The cost for a new van will be available at the next meeting. Gary shared that Kenna Bridges’ image plan will continue to be implemented.

Questions arose on the purpose of Friends. Frances shared that Friends of Recreation has existed for over 10 years, and that the Board was formalized as an official City Board approximately 2 years ago. Focus has been from the beginning on Recreation for youth, etc., but does also include Parks. However, Frances shared that formal support from the Friends Board will be sought for the LaCrone Park redevelopment project as their first major fund raising project.

Parks and Recreation Director – Monthly Report

Frances shared that February 5, 2007, the City Commission approved purchase for old railroad property for the trailway downtown. The trail will connect with the existing trailway at Rose Park, through downtown and connecting to the Kal-Haven Trail. This is all part of the non-motorized trailway plan known as the Kalamazoo River Valley Trailway Master Plan. It is anticipated that the maintenance will be taken over by the County once the trailway is completed. The County is fundraising and plans to start an Endowment to maintain the Trailway.

There were questions on the when the connection to Portage will be completed through Blanche Hull Park to Mayors' Riverfront Park. Frances shared that the one of the major issues with design and construction is the paper mill site on Alcott Street. It is believed that the property is now owned by the State. There is still need for demolition on the site and no funds have been identified to complete it. A timeline is not known.

Staff Comments: None

Board Member Comments:

Zachary Greening shared that 3 donation tubes were fabricated by OIK, and will be placed by the river. Possibly a fourth may be made as a spare.

Michael Dombos congratulated Frances on her Women of the Year Award from WMU.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Shoemaker, Recording Secretary