

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
March 6, 2007

Chair Wager called the meeting to order at 5:00 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, and Griffin Williams

Members Absent: Brian Fricke

City Commission Liaison: Barbara Miller

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Absent

Staff Present: Frances Jewell and Pat Vinge

Procedural Matters: None

Introduction of Guests: Larry Ross, Winchell Neighborhood Resident

Changes to the Agenda: Letter of appreciation added to New Business

Special Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes: *The February 6, 2007 minutes were unanimously approved.*

Old Business:

Recruiting Board Members

Larry Ross will be applying for Board membership. Frances will check to see if vacancies can be listed in the Parks and Recreation activity guide. Frances also spoke with the Clerk's Office about free listings in the Gazette's volunteer corner. She will ask Public Services to include vacancies in the Recycle newsletter which is circulated to residents. Gary will talk to the Volunteer Center to see about a listing with them.

New Business:

Board Application – Holly Ringle is unable to attend a PRAB meeting until May.

Staff Presentations

Frances shared that staff have offered to make presentations to PRAB and Friends of Recreation to provide the groups with a better understanding of what Parks and Recreation staff do in the community. PRAB members all agreed that this was a great idea and supported the staff presentations.

Letter of Appreciation

Gary read a draft letter of appreciation to John Hilliard for his work as PRAB chair. ***It was unanimously moved by the Board to send John the letter on behalf of the Board.***

Recommendations

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

- Borgess Health Alliance – Borgess Run for the Health of It, Spring Valley Park, April 28, 2007 from 8 am to 11 am
- Bronson Methodist Hospital – Bronson 29th Annual Health Fair, Bronson Park, September 8, 2007, 8:00 am-5:00 pm
- 2007 Kalamazoo Valley CROP Walk, Bronson Park, Sunday, May 6, 2007, 1:00-4:30 pm

Comments:

Citizens – Non Agenda Items: None

Commission Liaison Comments: Barbara Miller shared that she, David Anderson, and Mary Balkema have been appointed to discuss the proposed sale of Eastern Hills Golf Course and make a recommendation to the Commission in 30 days. Frances shared that the KMGa Board meets at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the 3rd floor conference room/City Hall. PRAB members will be notified when Eastern Hills is on the City Commission agenda. Staff will forward information from 2005 minutes on the potential sale of Eastern Hills including PRAB's September 6, 2005 motion in opposition to the sale.

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Gary shared that Friends has allocated \$16,000 from its Grantmaking Value to assist Parks and Recreation in purchasing a passenger van to transport youth to programs (\$12,000) and to provide additional funds for marketing materials and the Golf Outing (\$4,000). The LaCrone Park Redevelopment project was chosen by Friends as their signature fundraising project for the year. Friends annual Golf Outing will be held on a Friday this year, July 20, at Eastern Hills Golf Course.

Parks and Recreation Director – Monthly Report

Frances shared that Kalamazoo is one of 20 cities nationally, chosen to host National Public Radio's StoryCorps! The StoryCorps MobileBooth will be in Bronson Park from April 5-28. The City has embraced this event for the community with the City as a co-sponsor. People interested in sharing their story may make a reservation on the StoryCorps website, www.storycorps.net, or may call 1-800-850-4406.

Fairmount Park's master plan for the dog park is in the final planning stages. Construction is planned in 3 phases, with phase 1 costing approximately \$135,000. Once the master plan is adopted, fundraising will begin. The City Commission will be presented with Woods Lake, LaCrone, and Fairmount Parks' master plans for adoption into the 5 Year Master Plan. When this is completed, the City will be eligible to seek State and Federal grant funds.

Upjohn Park Redevelopment construction documents are nearly completed and will soon be bid out. Southside Park Improvements totaling \$84,000 are also close to being bid out.

Frances was asked if she had heard anything else regarding the Crane Park condominium project and responded that "no news is good news" in this case. Funds have been carried forward from the construction improvements at Crane Park and will be used to help create a master plan for the Park.

Staff Comments: None

Board Member Comments:

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Vinge, Recording Secretary