

**APPROVED**  
**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**  
**August 8, 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:** Gary Wager, Michael Dombos, and Zachary Greening

**Members Absent:** Brian Fricke, Griffin Williams, Lance Ferraro, and Gina Antoniotti

**City Commission Liaison:** Barbara Miller

**Friends of Recreation Liaison:** David Carrigan

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

**Introduction of Guests:** None

**Changes to the Agenda:** None

**Special Presentations:**

**Parks and Recreation staff presentation to provide PRAB with a better understanding of what Parks and Recreation staff do in the community.**

Victor Taylor, Youth Development Program Liaison, gave an overview of the Parks and Recreation Youth Development Center.

**Approval of Minutes:** No quorum, approval tabled until next meeting.

**Old Business:**

**Board Applications** was tabled until September.

**Ianelli Fountain Update:** Barbara Miller shared that a charette may be held to work on a design that would acknowledge native Americans in the area.

**Gazette Ad, other recruitment tools for PRAB:** Frances shared that the United Way coordinates volunteer listings in the Gazette. Information will be sent to United Way for this listing.

**YOU Summer Youth Work Program Update:** Frances said that 220 youth and 26 crew leaders will work through August 16 with a celebration picnic to be held in Milham Park on August 17. The program also is providing a breakfast snack and is participating in the KPS/USDA Free Summer Feeding Site program for lunch. A wrap-up report should be available in mid-October.

**New Business:**

**Parks User Survey:** There was discussion on the possibility of a park user survey; members agreed that it would be critical to carefully determine what needs to be measured. Frances shared that it would be costly to conduct a comprehensive survey but that if a survey were done, it could be incorporated into the upcoming revision of the 5 Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

**Henderson Park Signage** was tabled until the next meeting.

**Recommendations for Approval:** Art in the Park event recommendation was tabled due to lack of a quorum. ***August 7 National Night Out events in Rockwell Park and Farrell Park were recommended by phone and e-mail poll by PRAB prior to August meeting.***

***Mothers of Hope/Ultimate Family Reunion, Spring Valley Park Pavilion, Saturday, August 4, 2007, 10:00 am-9:00 pm was recommended for approval by phone/e-mail poll quorum prior to August meeting.***

Islamic Relief, "Humanitarian Day for the Homeless" Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, Saturday, September 29, 2007, all day, [event noon- 4:00 pm] was e-mailed to members prior to meeting. It was recommended for approval by all 3 members present at August 8 meeting. An e-mail/phone poll will be conducted to reach other members.

**Comments:**

**Citizens – Non Agenda Items:** None

**Commission Liaison Comments:** Barbara commended the Friends of Recreation for their Kalamazoo Kings game promo for Friends as well as the excellent coverage of Friends in the Gazette.

**Friends of Recreation Liaison:** None

**Parks and Recreation Director – Monthly Report**

Frances shared that a 3 park consortium consisting of Fairmount, LaCrone, and Woods Lake Beach Parks are putting together a single funding request for all 3 parks which will be presented to local foundations. The group has met twice at this point.

Friends of Recreation may publish a pictorial history of City of Kalamazoo parks. John Urschel, City Records and Information Manager, has researched and put together a draft for the book. If the project goes ahead it will be a fund raiser for the Friends of Recreation Endowment. Frances asked if PRAB would consider helping sell the books.

Public Services staff has a grant to implement key elements of the Portage and Arcadia Creeks watershed management plan which may include stabilizing storm water runoff in Milham Park. They are looking at bank erosion and are planning ways to mitigate the erosion through stabilizing plantings. This grant may be impacted by concerns raised with potential structural problems with the Milham Park dam that is not part of the existing grant. There may be a requirement by the DNR to rehabilitate the existing dam to a boulder "fish jump" before they will approve the current project..

**Staff Comments:** None

**Board Member Comments:** Gary Wager said that the Ladies Library Association has committed \$1100 for a park bench for Woods Lake Beach Park.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Vinge, Recording Secretary