

**APPROVED**  
**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**  
**January 8, 2008**

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, Larry Ross, Gary Wager, Gina Antoniotti, Zachary Greening, Griffin Williams, Michael Dombos (5:15 pm), and Brian Fricke (5:25 pm)

**Members Absent:** None

**City Commission Liaison:** Barbara Miller, present

**Friends of Recreation Liaison:** absent

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

**Introduction of Guests:** None

**Changes to the Agenda:** None

**Special Presentations:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** *The December 4, 2007 minutes were unanimously approved.*

**Old Business:**

**Milham/Blanche Hull Master Plan**

***A motion was unanimously approved to support the Milham/Blanche Hull Master Plan fundraising effort.***

**Condominiums adjacent to Crane Park**

The Board determined that there was very little they could do to oppose this project if it meets all City requirements.

**Gary Wager** was reappointed to PRAB by the City Commission on December 17, 2007.

**New Business:**

***Chair and Vice Chair PRAB unanimously appointed Gary Wager as Chair and Lance Ferraro as Vice Chair for 2008.***

**925 Grant Street**

At the December 2007 meeting, Michael Dombos requested that PRAB revisit their recommendation that this property be sold, indicating that it was a beautiful green space and that maintaining spaces like this in the community adds to the quality of life for residents. The Board questioned what the process was to "designate" a park. Frances said she would research this and bring her findings back to PRAB.

***PRAB unanimously recommended that 925 Grant St. be removed from the potential sale of surplus properties list, thus rescinding PRAB's 2005 recommendation.***

**The Budget Schedule** was shared with PRAB.

**Board Application**

The Board application for Garrylee McCormick was discussed. Garrylee currently serves on the Metro Transit Board. In order for Garrylee to serve on PRAB at the same time, the appointment would require a waiver of rules from the City Commission. Frances shared that the Transit Board will become a County board in about a year and thought it would be reasonable to request a waiver from the City Commission. She also shared that Garrylee is passionate about Parks and Recreation and would bring a wealth of historical background to the Board. Gary Wager will invite Garrylee to the February meeting for an interview. It was also suggested that PRAB's two youth members recruit youth to fill their positions when they move on to college in the fall.

**Event Recommendations for Approval:**

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

- Worship Services and Picnic Activities – Mt. Zion Baptist Church, LaCrone Park, August 22-24, 2008 – 9:00 am until 5:00 pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mental Health Awareness Festival – Power Branch, Bronson Park, May 2, 2008, noon to 4:00 pm [set-up/tear down 10:00 am-5:00 pm].

**Comments:**

**Citizens – Non Agenda Items:** None

**Commission Liaison Comments:** Barbara Miller said that she appreciated still being on as Commission Liaison to PRAB.

**Friends of Recreation Liaison:** None

**Parks and Recreation Managing Director – Monthly Report:** Frances shared on behalf of David Carrigan that the Friends of Recreation annual holiday fundraiser did well. She expressed appreciation to Lois Jackson, the former Recreation Manager, for the dream of the Endowment and the work she did to bring it to reality as well as former City Manager Pat DiGiovanni's commitment to the Endowment, directing appropriate General Fund dollars to the Endowment.

Frances also displayed the new Farmers Market green bags made of recycled material that are available for \$3.00 in the Parks and Recreation office and when the Market opens, at the Market.

The Board asked if renovation work was planned for Crane Park; Frances responded that Crane Park's master plan is included in the 2010 CIP. In 2008, the City bonded for dollars for LaCrone, Fairmount, and Woods Lake Parks to be used as a grant match for construction scheduled in 2009. The 3-park project is \$2,462,000 with \$1.8 million to be raised. The 3-park fundraising committee will be meeting with the Kalamazoo Community Foundation in February. Frances said that when the 3-park report for the Foundation is finalized, a copy will be e-mailed to PRAB members. The City has established project codes for each park and individuals may make donations payable to the City with clear direction on the project they are supporting.

**Staff Comments:** None

**Board Member Comments:** Zach said that June would be his last PRAB meeting; he will be transferring to school in Sault Ste. Marie. Board members expressed appreciation for the work he has done on the Board.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Pat Vinge, Recording Secretary