

APPROVED
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
08/05/2014

Chair Meka Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm in the Parks and Recreation Community Room in Mayors' Riverfront Park.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Meka Phillips, Travis Bell, Michael Markel, and John Johnson.

Members Absent: Natalie Patchell

City Commission Liaison: Stephanie Moore, absent

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Kathy Wiedmayer, absent

Staff Present: Sean Fletcher and Amy Willard

Introduction of Guests: Chris Bartley and Frank Wolf, members of the Friends' of Woods Lake Association

Changes to the Agenda: None

Special Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the July 01, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Event Recommendations: None

Comments:

Citizens: Chris has some concerns about the follow through with the Woods Lake Project, since it has been put off for so long. Sean said that the bids have been coming in too high. Mark had made changes to the scope of the project and sent it out for re bid. The second bids came in high also.

Sean said that we have the DNR grant for \$363,200, and that we are moving forward. He said that demolition for this year will probably begin on the bath house/restrooms.

Frank said that when he spoke with Ken Collard, Ken agreed that it would be a good idea to utilize City employees during the fall months to raise the old building, and work on the sewer lines since it is their slow time. He said that he is disappointed that the project has been put off as long as it has.

John said that everyone is frustrated with Marks departure, and the lack of progress on Woods Lake Park. Everyone agreed, but effort is being made to get the project done.

Frank said that the best view of the lake is where the Men's restroom is. He said that just raising that building, relocating the pavilion, having new changing rooms, and limiting the parking area would be tremendous improvements. He said that people have been parking along the beach and in places they shouldn't be. He said with a new plan, parking would be in designated sports and people would have to walk down to the beach area.

Chris said she is concerned about the height of the water. She thinks there should be some changes in the plan as far as the rain garden goes. She said she would like to be involved with that.

Commission Liaison: Stephanie Moore, absent

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Absent

Parks and Recreation Managing Director Monthly Report: Sean said the bids for Hays Park came in very high. He said that adjustments are being made to this project as well. He said that it is only about an 8-week project, so that can still be done this year.

Sean said that there are interviews scheduled for the Program Assistant position, which will be the week of August 11th. He said that a part time Marketing and Communications Assistant will be hired also. The interviews for that position will be the week of August 18th. The Parks Manager position is currently on hold until Sean gets all of the details on what is going to happen with the position.

Sean said that Movies in the Park have been going pretty well. The Lego movie had a good turnout. The Field of Dreams turnout wasn't as good, but he thinks it's because it's an older movie, and many kids didn't want to see it.

The family camp out did not have a huge turnout. Sean said that with a better movie, and better marketing and promotion, next year should be a better year.

Sean said that for the 2015 Capital Improvement Project budget, he put in a request for a splash pad that would go in at Upjohn Park. He said that the Kalamazoo County Aquatics Initiative is looking to build a competitive pool, and Upjohn Park is being looked at as a potential site. He said he will keep PRAB posted. He said that the tennis courts and/or skate park could potentially be moved. There are some opportunities at the site, and it would be no cost to the City. He said the neighborhood would benefit greatly from something like this.

Staff: None

Board Members: Michael said that Springmont Park Tot Lot locks have changed, and that the Neighborhood Association used to have a key for mowing. Sean said he would take care of this. Also, he commended the Parks and Recreation staff for all of their hard work.

John said that he read on Facebook that the Gilmore Foundation gave \$55,000.00 to Bronson Park. He thought this was incredible. He also asked how we were doing on reducing the number of people hanging out and sleeping in Bronson park. Sean said that he is working with City Manager to change the ordinance, so that no sleeping is allowed in the parks.

Sean said that the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation gave us a \$21,000.00 grant to help support us for summer programming. The grant supports Lunchtime Live, Movies in the Park and the Kik Pool to help it stay open a bit longer for the season.

Adjournment: 5:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by Amy Willard, Recording Secretary

A. Willard

Recording Secretary

Meh Phillips

Chair