

DRAFT – ~~Approved~~
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
01/06/2015

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: None (Chris Patchell and Zadie Jackson are pending)

City Commission Liaison: Vacant position

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Kathy Wiedmayer, absent

Staff Present: Sean Fletcher, Amy Willard

Introduction of Guests: None

Changes to the Agenda: Peace Pizzazz, added under Event Recommendations

Special Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the December 02, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Ad Hoc Committee (Crane Park triangle) – Sean said that they have a couple of meetings scheduled. The Committee consists of Natalie, Ryan and a couple Master Gardeners. Ryan is looking at the possibility of putting in some native plants, should the trees come down. Sean said that Andrea from Adams Outdoor has been made aware of the committee.

New Business:

New meeting location for June 02, 2015 – John suggested meeting at the pavilion at Upjohn Park that day. Travis made the motion for the Board to meet there. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Meka Phillips – Board reappointment – Sean said that it was just a formality that Meka needs to be reappointed to the Board, even though she was elected chair. Michael made the motion to reappoint her. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Event Recommendations:

- The Kalamazoo Public Library 18th annual Party in the Park event at Bronson Park on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. was unanimously approved.
- The Unity of Kalamazoo Peace Pizzazz event at Bronson Park on Saturday, May 30, 2015 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Comments:

Citizens: None

Commission Liaison: Vacant position

Friends Liaison: Kathy Wiedmayer, absent.

Sean told the Board that he and Jen will be talking about what the Friends' Board has to get to Dan McGlenn to finally become a 501 (c) 3. Sean said there are some changes he needs to make to some of the documentation. He said after that, they just need to decide when the current Board will dissolve and when the new Board will take effect.

Sean said that he spoke with City Manager, Jim Ritsema, and City Commissioner, Barb Miller, about the Fund Developer position. He said it's still up in the air because they don't know how much money they will have access to. He said that details still need to be worked out.

Parks and Recreation Director Monthly Report: Sean said the budget hearing on Monday, January 5th was just a public hearing to receive comments. He said the 2015 budget approvals, along with the new rate changes, will happen at the hearing on Tuesday, January 20th at 7:00 p.m. He said he would like some PRAB members to come and speak up for Parks and Recreation.

Sean said the new Recreation Manager, Patrick McVerry, started on Monday, January 5th. Sean said that his first few months on the job are going to be learning and familiarizing himself with the job. Sean said he will be meeting with Patrick daily to check in and answer any questions he may have. Sean said that he used to work on the PGA Tour and has a lot of experience, so he will put Patrick in charge of the Friends' Golf Outing.

Sean said that as far as accreditation goes, he is hopeful to have it completed by 2015. He said he is apprehensive though because Patrick is learning and it may be tough to get the files updated. He said we are still pursuing it, but he is unsure of whether it will happen in 2016 or 2017.

Sean said that on Friday, January 9th, a consultant will be coming in who is part of the premier membership of the state association with Parks and Recreation Association. This person will come in and talk about a recreation strategic plan and how we can provide the best service to our residents. Sean said that will get us on the right track for 2015, and give us a plan for the next couple of years.

Sean said that Ryan is doing well in his position, as well as the rest of the staff. He said that we are now back to full staff and everyone is doing a great job in their positions.

Staff: None

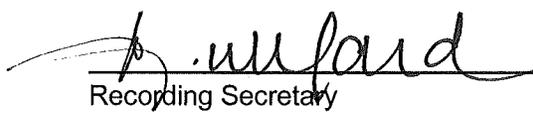
Board Members: Meka suggested that Board members visit a public event once or twice a year. She said they should introduce themselves to the event host, and thank them for renting out the park. She said it shows that we care about them, and it could drive more business. Then it can be discussed at the next meeting.

Travis suggested getting a calendar with the next month's activities and deciding who does what day. The Board thought this was a good idea.

Meka also suggested the Board does an ask annually or semi-annually to raise money. Sean said that it would be easier for Friends to do this once they become a 501 (c) 3. He said then maybe Friends' and PRAB can have a joint meeting and then have the conversation about who should be asked and what should be asked.

Adjournment: 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Willard, Recording Secretary

 - 03 Feb '15

Recording Secretary

Meka Phillips

Chair