

Approved
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
06/02/2015

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, Michael Markel, Zadie Jackson, Chris Patchell

Members Absent: Travis Bell, John Johnson

City Commission Liaison: Vacant position

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Vacant position

Staff Present: Sean Fletcher, Meg Kennedy, Ryan Johnson

Introduction of Guests: Members of the Westnedge Hill Neighborhood Association and master gardeners were present to ask for use of a portion of a City park for a community garden in the West Main Hill Neighborhood. Present were David Johnson, Christina Anderson, Harvey Bautre, Greg Beck, and Gail Walter. Natalie Patchell was also present representing the Crane Park Tree Committee.

Changes to the Agenda: None

Special Presentations:

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the May 5th, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- A. Kahlil Adams' application for Youth Representative position
-Kahlil Adams was unanimously approved for the Youth Representative position

New Business:

Henderson Park Community Garden – Christina Henderson stated that her group would like to use the Eastern corner of Henderson Park for a community garden. She says that there is lots of interest among the neighbors in the project and that the West Main Hill board mostly supports the project. There would be twelve 5ftx10ft beds and each bed would be assigned to a household with a portion of the harvest going to a food pantry. She stated that there is one neighbor who is concerned about the maintenance and appearance of a community garden. Zadie wanted to know what the budget is. Christina stated that the plants and seeds are donated and that they may be able to get materials donated from the Edison demo houses. The rest will be done at the expense of the initial gardeners. She stated there are two neighbors that will be willing to provide use of their water, and if the garden fails the gardeners will put the land back to the way it was before. They are looking to put up a gate that shuts to keep animals out. Ryan said that he likes the idea. Zadie wanted to know if the gardeners could put it in writing that they will put the land back to its original state if the garden fails. Christina agreed that she could have that done. Meka wanted to know what the timeline for the project was. Christina stated that the project would start next year. Zadie made a motion that Parks and Recreation create some guidelines that Sean would approve and that we table the proposal until August. Board unanimously agrees.

Natalie Patchell's Crane Park Tree Committee Update - Natalie handed out minutes and a summary of the committee's work. The goal of the proposed park would be to create an inviting space, increase usage and reduce sound and blowing wind. Natalie stated that three trees have been approved by the tree committee to be cut, but that they are not in immediate danger of falling down. New trees will be planted before the old ones are cut so that the area is not so open and barren. The plant life should be drought and salt tolerant and citizens are willing to be a part of the fundraising. She mentioned that all gateways to the City have water hook-ups and this should also. There will be tables and seating added and a sign to welcome people to Kalamazoo and they will begin planting in the fall. She said that Adams Outdoor Sign will make a sign explaining the construction and will pay to have the trees cut. The project already has a \$1,000 donation. Ryan stated that he is concerned about the cost of maintaining the new park. Zadie requested a cost analysis of estimated annual maintenance costs of the park and that an endowment be established at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation to fund these costs. She made a motion to move forward with the project, but the item was tabled until the next meeting.

Event Recommendations:

- A. Valley Family Church requested event: Love week on Saturday, August 1st, 2015 from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm at UpJohn Park was unanimously approved

- B. Pop Up Events Corp's requested event: United Health Care Community Appreciation on Saturday, July 25th, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Bronson Park was denied due to the location. Chris Patchell made a motion to approve the event if it was moved to UpJohn Park or Mayor's Riverfront Park. Board voted to unanimously approve if they moved the event.

Comments:

Citizens: Natalie Patchell suggested that the benches at Crane Park need to be standardized. Ryan said he is working on a form to standardize.

Commission Liaison: Vacant position

Friends Liaison: Vacant position

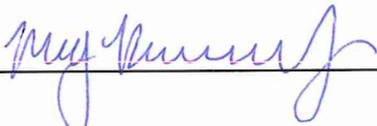
Parks and Recreation Director Monthly Report: Director had to leave early

Staff: None

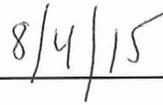
Board Members: Michael thanked the Crane Park AdHoc Committee for all of their work. Zadie said it was nice that Ryan has been coming to all different types of events.

Adjournment: 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Meg Kennedy, Recording Secretary



Recording Secretary

Chair